July 3rd—9th, 1986, No. 26

75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

CAPTAIN'S TABLE

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SHORE FLUKE

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RT JEFF UEFISH

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MAICA BAY WEAKFISH

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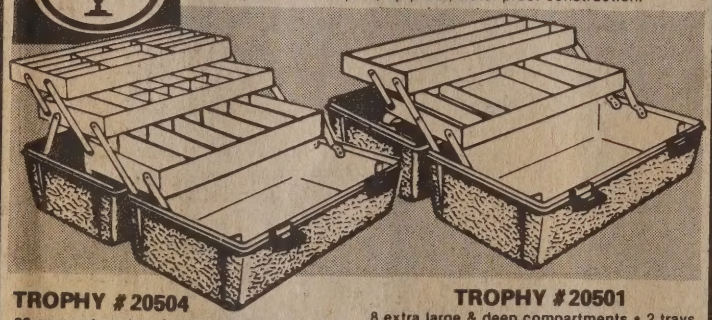

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Colors: Yellow, Olive

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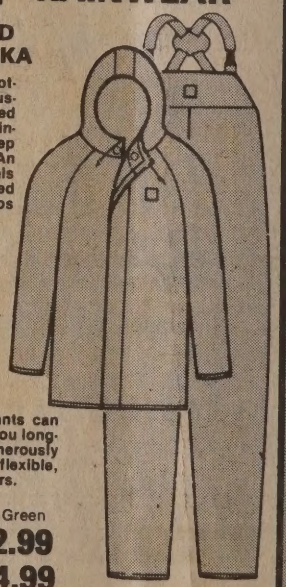

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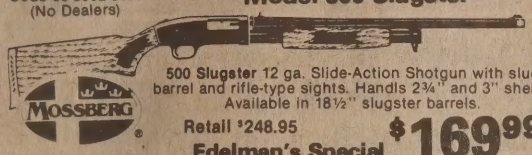

500 Slugster 12 ga. Slide-Action Shotgun with slug barrel and rifle-type sights. Handls 2¾" and 3" shells. Available in 18½" slugster barrels.

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Model 686 Stainless Distinguished Combat Magnum

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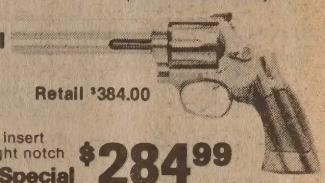

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- Red ramp front sight insert
- White outline rear sight notch

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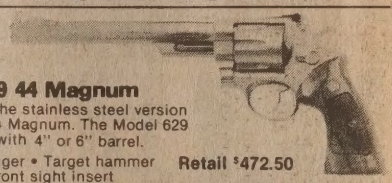

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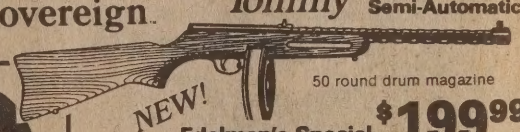

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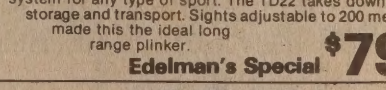

Caliber 22LR

The TD22 Semi Automatic Takedown Rifle offers the shooter a highly accurate shooting system for any type of sport. The TD22 takes down for easy storage and transport. Sights adjustable to 200 meters made this the ideal long range plinker.

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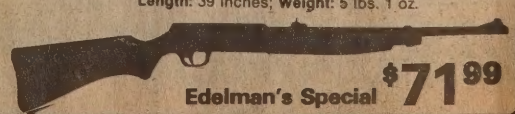

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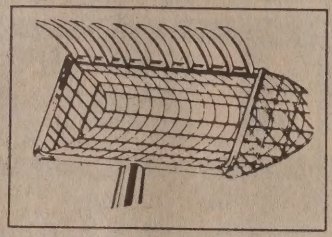

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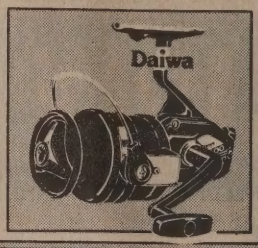

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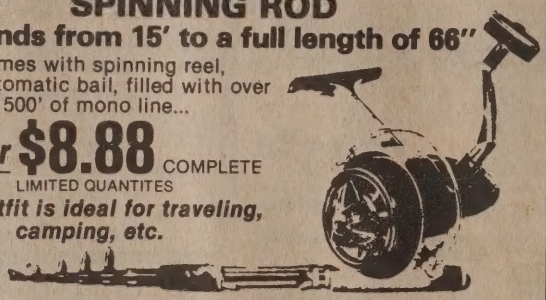

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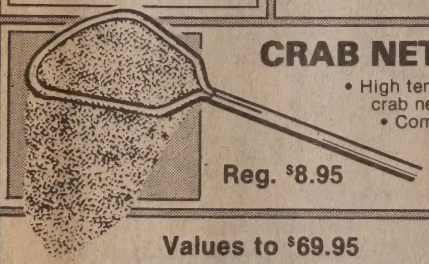

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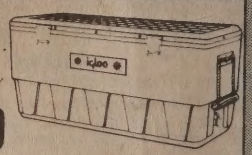

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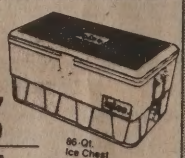

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 21, Number 26 July 3rd, 1986

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Linda Barrett with a nice fluke taken in New York Bight. Matt Ahern weaves an entertaining fluke tale on page 16, while Gerald Hahn provides some tips for shore based fluke fans on page 18. Pete Barrett Photo.

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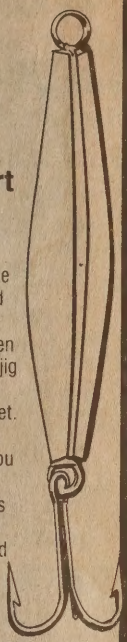

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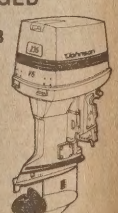

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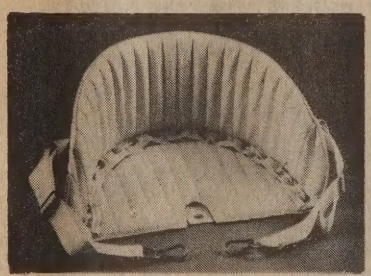

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CONNECTICUT BASS MORATORIUM

On June 17, 1986, the Regulations Review Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly approved a proposed amendment to striped bass fishing regulations which was the subject of public hearings in April of this year.

The amendment, effective July 1, 1986, prohibits the possession of striped bass on the waters of this state and the possession of any striped bass less than 33 inches total length anywhere in Connecticut (that is, fish which may have been taken elsewhere). Consequently, the striped bass fishery in Connecticut after July 1st will be a catch and release fishery only. This management measure, designed to assist in the restoration of striped bass of Chesapeake Bay origin, will remain in effect until April 1, 1989. Effective April 1, 1989, unless changed sooner, regulations governing the fishery will revert to those in effect prior to July 1 with two important exceptions. First, the method of measurement will be in *total length* rather than fork length, and second, the season will open on April 1st instead of April 16th. The complete regulation is provided below:

Section 26-159a-2: Striped bass Fishing in the Marine District.

A) On and after July 1, 1986 and until March 31, 1989 no person shall take or bring ashore in this state, or possess on the waters of this state any striped bass and no person shall possess in this state any striped bass, regardless where taken, less than 33 inches measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

B) On and after April 1, 1989 no person shall take, possess, sell, exchange or offer for sale or exchange in this state any striped bass, wherever taken, less than 24 inches, measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. No person shall bring ashore or possess on the waters of this state any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed or that has otherwise been rendered incapable of being identified or measured.

C) No person shall sell, exchange or offer for sale or exchange any striped bass taken from the waters of this state.

D) On and after April 1, 1989 no person shall take in this state, or bring ashore, or possess on the waters of this state, any striped bass, wherever taken, from Decembver 15th to March 31st both dates inclusive.

E) Striped bass shall not be taken except by angling.

F) Any striped bass taken contrary to the provisions of this section shall be returned immediately to the waters from which taken.

Section 26-112-45(k): Striped Bass Fishing in the Inland District.

1) On and after July 1, 1986 and until March 31, 1989 no person shall take in this state, bring ashore or possess on the waters of this state any striped bass and no person shall possess in this state any striped bass, regardless where taken, less than 33 inches measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

2) Striped bass may be taken only by angling.

3) On and after April 1, 1989, the taking of striped bass from December 15th through March 31st, both dates inclusive, is prohibited.

4) On and after April 1, 1989, the minimum length for striped bass shall be 24 inches, measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

For further information, contact either Robert Jones at 566-2287 or Eric Smith at 443-0166.

YAMAHA ADDED TO PRIZE LIST IN FISHERMAN SPONSORED DERBIES

Yamaha has announced that any Yamaha owner who wins first place in any of The Fisherman sponsored fluke or flounder derbies, will receive an additional check in the amount of $1000 from Yamaha. This latest addition to the prize list becomes effective with the Captree Fluke Derby on June 28th and 29th.

COURTESY MARINE EXAMS AVAILABLE

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will examine your boat (up to 65 feet) to ensure you have all required (By Law) equipment on board. Not only are certain types and quantities required for your size boat, "they must be in working order."

These examinations called Courtesy Marine Examinations or CME, are done as a courtesy for the boating public. There is no charge for a CME and if you are missing equipment or otherwise don't pass, the information goes no further than you and the examiner. If your boat does not pass the first time, we will advise you as to what is not in compliance and re-examine your boat when you correct the problem.

Boats passing the examination will be awarded a CME Decal. This Decal which is affixed to the boat by the Examiner attests to the fact that you have the required federal and state equipment on board, and in working order.

If you see a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on your dock, pier or ramp, ask about a CME, or call Captain Ted Prager on (516) 487-4793 during non-working hours or (516) 683-7292 during working hours. We will put you in touch with an Examiner in your area. Also Flotilla

12-2 on the North Shore will have a manned station at the boating ramp located in Steppingstone Park, Great Neck, now through September 1986.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SPORT FISHING GUIDES AVAILABLE

Cooperative Extension has developed a set of sport fishing guides for the Long Island angling public. They are designed for beginning anglers seeking concise information about angling for a variety of saltwater fish in local waters. Each guide includes information about species identification, seasons for fishing, popular locations for angling, tackle requirement, rigging, baits and lures, presentation techniques and present catch records. Advanced anglers may also find these guides to be useful references. The titles in the series include: blackfish, porgies, fluke, flounder, snappers, bluefish, blowfish, weakfish, black sea bass and blue crabs. To order a complete set, write to Robert J. Kent, Cooperative Extension Agent, 246 Griffing Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901. Include a check made payable to Cooperative Extension for $3.

JOHNSON'S OAK BRUSH PRESERVE BILL PASSES

State Senator Owen H. Johnson today announced that the Senate has passed his bill to create the Oak Brush Plain State Preserve on the Edgewood property. "We're halfway there," he stated, "now, it's up to the Assembly to pass the measure and then to the Governor to sign the bill into law."

Senator Johnson indicated that he had received overwhelming support for his bill from residents in communities surrounding the site. The Johnson bill places the Edgewood property in a preserve status, and would require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to protect the deep water recharge qualities of the property, allow for public access for educational purposes and provide for the health and safety of area residents. DEC would also be required to demolish the abandoned structures, prepare a fire management plan for the preserve, clean up the area and keep it litter free.

Earlier in the year, the Long Island legislator was successful in negotiating a budget appropriation in the amount of $650,000, to enable DEC to demolish the buildings. The department held a hearing on the environmental impact of the demolition in April, at which Senator Johnson expressed his concern that toxic substances, such as asbestos and PCBs might be on the site. He said that DEC officials had informed him that the Environmental Impact Statement on the demolition project is near completion and that a report on their findings would be issued shortly.

Senator Johnson urged those individuals who signed petitions and wrote to him in support of his bill to concentrate their efforts on con-

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vincing Assemblyman Arthur Kremer, Chairman of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, to release the Oak Brush Plain State Preserve bill (A.8715A) from committee so that it can be brought to the Assembly floor for consideration.

AREA ANGLERS HONORED AT WORLD RECORD CEREMONY

The following New York anglers have set new International Game Fish Association line class records in 1985.

Each of these record fish were the largest of the species recorded by IGFA during 1985, and because the anglers were using Berkley's Trilene fishing line, they also netted a cool $1000 from Berkley.

All were honored recently when a Berkley representative presented the $1000 awards.

This year 198 records were set, making a total of 1278 records on Trilene fishing line. Berkley is continuing their IGFA World Record program throughout 1986, so you may want to spool up with Trilene if you think you may catch a record size fish.

Lynnette M. Pintauro, bluefin tuna, 40.1 lbs.; Charles J. Nappi, summer flounder, 9.8 lbs.; Ann Houseknecht, Atlantic cod, 63.2 lbs.; Jennifer A. Gracie, jack crevalle, 12.8 lbs.; Steve H. Cunningham, Arctic grayling, 3.8 lbs.; Jason A. Wilson, redhorse sucker, 9.3 lbs.; and St. Clair Cornish, coho salmon, 30.12 lbs.

SPORT FISHERY RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDS NEW FISHERIES RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Executive Committee of the Sport Fishery Research Foundation (SFRF) recently awarded a total of $84,075 in support of 22 fishery research projects whose results will strengthen sport fishing throughout the United States.

"Since 1950," commented Benjamin Hardesty, President of SFRF, "the Sport Fishery Research Foundation and the Sport Fishing Institute (SFI) have awarded cash grants totaling over $1,00,000 for graduate fellowships, university staff research, professional development coursework, and special fisheries resource projects, such as symposia dealing with critical environmental issues."

"The SFRF and the SFI," continued Mr. Hardesty, "have been pioneers in the funding of fishery research and management projects. More than any other single private source, they have influenced the quality and direction of fisheries science and management techniques. We are justly proud of our achievements over the years and we will continue to expand training and reseach opportunities for fisheries scientists throughout the nation."

The Sport Fishery Research Foundation is a national, nonprofit scientific and educational conservation organization administered by the Sport Fishing Institute in Washington, D.C. SFI is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to providing more and better sport fishing

opportunities through the application of fishery science.

The Sport Fishing Institute, through its professional staff, provides the Sport Fishery Research Foundation with the scientific fisheries expertise necessary to ensure that projects and programs with the greatest potential for enhancing the sport fishery resource receive priority in the funding review process.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: TOURNAMENT CANCELLED

We regret to announce the cancellation of the Tournament Anglers Tuna & Billfish Tournament, scheduled for July 12th and 13th.

Due to a mix up in marina accommodations, we were forced to change the date; as a result we have not received the response we expected. Any checks which have already been mailed out, will be promptly returned.

BOATING COURSE IN QUEENS

Bayside Power Squadron (a non-profit organization) is starting its free, 11 lesson Boating Course on Wednesday, July 9th, from 7-9 PM at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blve.

Registration for the course may be made either at Borough Hall on July 9th or at the Power Squadron Booth at the Queens Festival in Flushing Meadow Park the weekend of June 28th and 29th.

Offered free, except for a nominal charge to cover cost of material, the Boating Course is taught as a public service to adults and teenagers in over 500 areas nationally.

Over 2½ million students have benefited from this instruction given by knowledgeable volunteers of the United States Power Squadron who have completed advanced Squadron courses and have had extensive boating experience.

For additional information, call (718) 847-7424.

EXCELLENCE IS REWARDED

The Outdoor Writers Association of America, Inc., (OWAA) is proud to announce the winners of the 1986 Excellence in Communication awards. The awards program which is administered by OWAA in cooperation with Stroh Brewery recognizes exemplary work accomplished in the past year. The individual awards were presented during the 59th annual OWAA conference in Harrisburg, Penna, June 8 through 12.

Artist Bob Kuhn of Roxbury, CT, received the art award for his painting of two bull moose which appeared in the December/January, 1986 issue of *National Wildlife* magazine.

Mike Beno of McHenry, IL, captured the top magazine award for his article "Goodbye Grasslands" published in the July/August, 1985 issue of *Ducks Unlimited* magazine.

Mark Sosin of Boca Raton, FL, received the television award for his show "Mark Sosin's Saltwater Journal" that appeared on ESPN.

Norman Jolliffe of Brooks, ME, took the radio award for his program "The Great Maine Outdoors" which aired on MPBN radio.

Frank Sargeant of Riverview, FL, was presented the newspaper award for his 5-part series on Tampa Bay which appeared in the May 12-16 issues of *Tampa Tribune*.

Erwin Bauer of Teton Village, Wyoming, received the book award for "Erwin Bauer's Bear in Their World." Bauer, along with his wife Peggy, also is the judges' unanimous choice for the photography award for a color photograph of egrets framed against a setting sun.

All the winners received $800 and a plaque from OWA and the sponsor of the Excellence in Communication award program, Stroh Brewery.

SHARK TOURNEY SLATED FOR JULY 12TH

Great Gun Anglers will be holding their Tenth Annual Shark Tournament on Saturday, July 12th. The entry fee is $100 and prizes are 50, 30 and 20 percent less operating expenses.

Further information can be gotten from Great Gun Anglers, P.O. Box 39, East Moriches, NY 11940, (516) 874-3938 or B&B Tackle, Main Street, Center Moriches, NY, (516) 878-9280.

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

AMBASSADUER XLT PLUS

by Jim White

One of the more enjoyable experiences I've had this season is fishing with Abu-Garcia's Ambassadeur XLT Plus baitcasting reel. Its light weight and ease of casting makes it a pleasure to fish with all day long without feeling at the end of the day like you've been lifting weights.

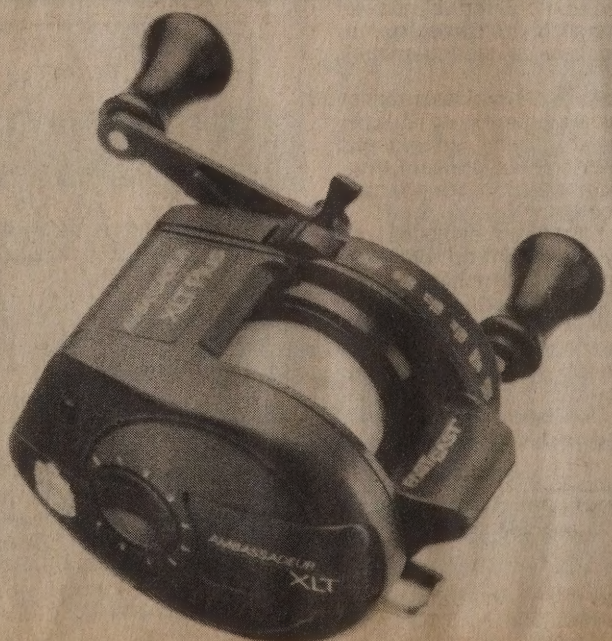
Garcia offers this reel in four models to suit just about anyone's needs or requirements. The XLT Plus and XLT (left hand) come with a narrow spool and weighs a mere 9.0 oz. with a 4.7:1 gear ratio. Line capacity for these two models is 150 yards of 10 pound test and 120 yards of 14 pound test, giving the fisherman more than enough line to handle most fishing situations.

The Ultra Mag XLT 2 and XLT 3 are a little bit larger and can serve double duty being used for both fresh and light saltwater fishing. These two models weigh in at 9.8 and 10.5 ounces respectively. Line capacity with the standard spool in the Mag 2 is 195 yards of 12 pound test and 140 yards of 20 pound test. The XLT 3 features a wide spool and can handle 300 yards of 12 pound test and 190 yards of 20 pound line, which makes them an excellent choice for light surf or boat casting. Put one of these reels on a West Coast salmon or steelhead rod and you have got yourself one fine fishing outfit.

There are two things that stood out while fishing with these reels. First, the ability to cast into a relatively strong wind without experiencing any backlash problems; and second, the unique bayonet lock, quick-change spool system which allows the fisherman to carry a variety of spools with different pound test lines and change line test as conditions dictate in just a matter of seconds.

This feature alone makes the reels unique as you no longer have to have a variety of reels with you to fish in different ways. It's a lot easier to store a few spools than it is to carry a couple of extra rod and reel setups to change from one method of fishing to another.

On the XLT Plus series which features a Fast Cast ThumBar and a



special flipping switch, a freshwater bass enthusiast can change from flipping with 20 pound test line to six or eight for crankbait fishing or anywhere in-between for just general casting all in one easy step.

With the larger models, you can accomplish the same thing. Go from 12 pound test for casting to 20 pound test for baitfishing just by flipping the lock system and inserting your extra spool.

I also liked the feature that once a setting is made on the magnetic dial not much change was needed in the setting to get good casts with no backlashes. Many baitcasting reels tend to backlash or overrun when casting into a headwind unless you have a very educated thumb. This is especially true along the coast for surf anglers. Once set, the magnetic control remains constant even when lighter lures are employed.

Graphite components are used for lighter weight and corrosion resistance and this is also a real plus. If you've never owned a graphite bodied reel you really don't know what you're missing. They offer lightweight, strength, durability and corrosion resistance.

Garcia's engineered dual Glide-Lok magnetic side-brake, assures precise casting, eliminates backlashes and foul-ups. You'll appreciate this feature while tossing spinnerbaits and surface lures.

The flipping feature (XLT Plus and Plus LH) engages by just the touch of a switch. "F" for flipping and "off" for traditional baitcasting use.

For quick one-hand casting the Fast Cast Thumb-Bar on the XLT Plus and Plus LH provides fast one hand casting at the touch of a thumb.

Inside is an independent rotating spool with stainless steel ball bearings for lightning-fast smoothness and greater casting distances.

When mounted on the rod, the low profile design and comfortable palming side-plate plus exclusive Thumb Rest make for tireless casting and all day control.

The precision mechanical braking system adjusts accurately to all lure weights and the free-floating level wind prevents accidental line breakage and extends casting range with more accuracy.

When that big fish explodes on your lure, you'll have no problem handling him with the multi-disc star drag. Garcia says "It's the smoothest and strongest ever designed in any Ambassadeur."

A quick smooth power drive system made from precision cut brass gears is designed for extra strength and with a high speed 4.7:1 retrieve. It'll tame any buzzbait.

Add Ambassadeur's lifetime warranty to all the features and what you have is one fine piece of fishing machinery.

Manufactured by: Abu-Garcia, Inc., 21 Law Drive, Fairfield, NJ 07006; (201) 227-7666.

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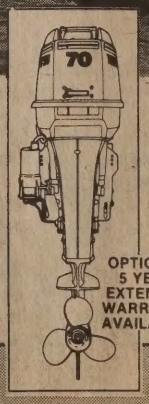

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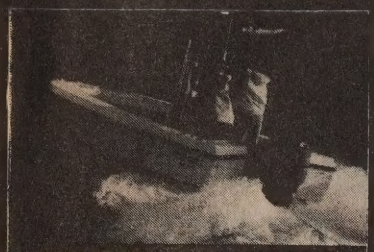
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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE:

SNAPPERS TO CHOPPERS SPELL GOOD EATING

by Sal Agliano

As spring warms to summer, local waters are suddenly beseiged by an army of eating machines known as bluefish. From the tiniest snapper to choppers the length of one's arm, these perennial invaders attack virtually anything that moves.

Weather premitting, this reign of terror continues into December. All season long, eager anglers test their mettle against the voracious blues from beaches, jetties and boats, and by summer's end, many freezers are stuffed to near capacity with a multitude of potential bluefish dinners.

But as bluefish meals become common practice, fanciful cooks are soon disenchanted with traditional cooking choices. They seek out more elegant ways to prepare and savor this abundant crop. In an effort to alleviate the monotony, I have put together three recipes I trust will rescue you from the humdrum of simple eating and deliver you to the height of adventurous dining.

Each recipe, which generously serves four, features bluefish at a different cycle of its life.

Snapper Snacks

Great as TV snacks, these tasty, tiny morsels can be eaten plain like potato chips or dipped in a creamy cheese sauce.

24 snapper blues, filleted
3 eggs
2 cups flour
cooking oil (enough for deep frying)

The most difficult part of preparing this recipe is filleting the tiny snappers. Once you get started, you'll be surprised at how quickly and efficiently the task is accomplished.

Begin by scaling each fish on both sides. Gently scrape along the body with a knife from tail to head. Rinse off any loose scales under the faucet with cold water. Next, remove the head and entrails in one motion by making a cut behind the head and just before the dorsal fin. Cut down to and behind the pectoral fin. Angle the knife towards the anal opening and continue cutting in a diagonal line from the fin to just beyond the anal opening. Rinse gut cavity thoroughly and with one slice remove the tail.

To fillet each snapper, place the knife's tip under the flesh at the tail end and against the bone. Stroke evenly against the bone while lifting away the meat with your free hand. Repeat procedure on opposite side.

Heat oil in a fry pan. Beat eggs in a bowl and pour flour onto a plate or waxed paper. Dip fillets into egg, then dredge in flour. Gently place coated fillets into hot oil and fry on both sides until golden brown. Arrange cooked fillets on a platter lined with absorbent paper.

Dipping Sauce:

1/4 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
1 cup milk
dash of Worchestershire
dash of Tabasco
dash of paprika

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and cook over a very low flame. Stir while cooking until sauce is smooth and creamy. Transfer to heat proof bowl or fondue and dip away! Serve with cold beer and plenty of napkins.

Foil Steamed Bluefish

A subtle blending of bluefish and roasted peppers, this savory dish will maintain moisture throughout cooking as the delicate juices are trapped and contained within a sealed foil jacket.

2 lbs. bluefish fillets
1 - 4 oz. jar roasted peppers
4 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tsp capers
juice of 1 lemon
2 tbsp butter
dash of nutmeg
salt and pepper to taste

For this dish I prefer using the sweet fillets from cocktail blues, averaging from 2 to 3 pounds. Place fillets in the center of a long sheet of standard size aluminum foil. Slice roasted peppers in thin strips and distribute evenly over fillets. Add

garlic and capers. Squeeze lemon over all. Dot with butter and sprinkle on nutmeg, salt and pepper.

Tear off a second sheet of foil equal in dimensions to the first. Place second sheet over fillets and lined up with bottom sheet. Roll up both sheets together on all sides to form a seal around fillets. Place in a preheated oven set at 375 degrees and steam bake for 20 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven, gently unwrap foil and slide cooked fillets onto a platter. Serve with baked potatoes and a tossed green salad.

Bluefish Potato Croquettes

Have you ever wondered what to do with the leftovers from a huge baked or broiled bluefish? Well, your worries are over! With this recipe, you can treat your family to a really tasty dish the very next day and I guarantee you won't get any complaints.

2 cups cooked, flaked bluefish
2 cups cooked, mashed potatoes
2 eggs
2 cups dry bread crumbs
1 tsp grated Parmesan cheese
1 small onion, finely minced
1 sprig fresh parsley, chopped fine
salt and pepper to taste
cooking oil, enough for deep frying

Carefully pick bluefish meat from carcass. Mix thoroughly in a large bowl, bluefish meat, mashed potatoes, eggs, bread crumbs, cheese, onion, parsley, salt and pepper. If mixture is too dry, add a little water; if too loose, add extra bread crumbs. Shape mixture into about two dozen oblong balls.

Heat oil in fry pan. Gently place oblong balls apart in hot oil and fry on both sides until golden brown. Remove croquettes from pan and keep them warm while you prepare the sauce.

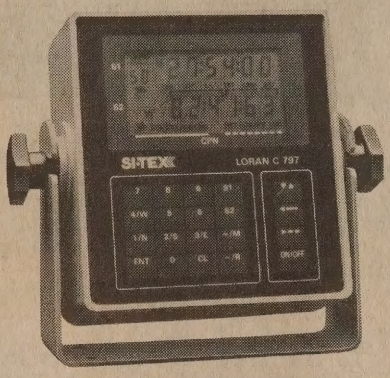
Sauce:

1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms
1 drop olive oil
1/8 lb. butter
1/2 cup flour
2 cups milk
salt and pepper to taste

In a medium size skillet, saute briefly mushrooms with olive oil until lightly browned. Remove mushrooms from skillet and set aside. In same skilled, heat butter and flour together, mixing vigorously until well blended. Slowly pour milk into skilled while stirring. Add sauteed mushrooms, salt and pepper. Continue to cook while stirring and breaking up any lumps until sauce is smooth and creamy. Serve croquettes with steamed broccoli and raw carrot sticks. Pour mushroom sauce over all.

Each year bluefish of all sizes provide unlimited action and bountiful harvests for fishermen of all ages. I hope these recipes provide a pleasant change of pace and help you to rediscover that from the tiniest snapper to the grandest chopper, bluefish, whether cooked traditionally or prepared adventurously, truly spell fine eating.

The Long Ranger.



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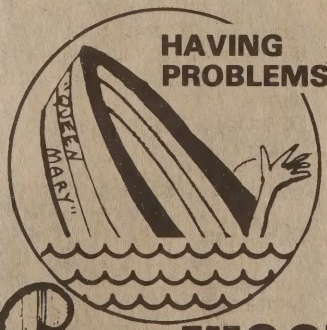

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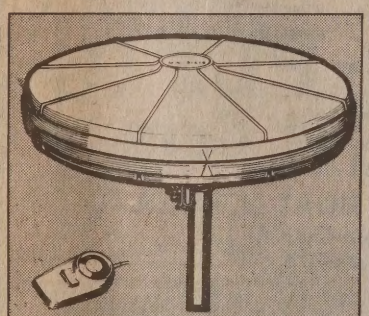

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

A member of my club has a Daiwa GS-90 reel, which is in need of repair. Could you tell us if you know of any places where we can get parts and servicing for this reel? We would appreciate it very much.

Ken von Holton.

Dear Ken,

I'd first check with some of the local tackle shops in your area. There are a lot of small shops that do reel repairs at reasonable prices. If you can't find a local shop you will have to ship the reel to an authorized Daiwa Service Center. The closest is located on Long Island. The address is: Garan's Inc., 1708A West Sunrise Highway, Merrick, NY 11566. You might first call them for details on shipping your reels. The phone number is 1-516-378-9251.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I've about had it as far as fishing with bucktails and plastic worms is concerned. I think I know how to use a leadhead bucktail as well as the next guy, but on a recent trip to the weakfish grounds, I went without a hit while others on nearby boats did a number on big weakfish.

It looked like they had the same rig I was using and we were drifting over the same patch of bottom. But, on each pass I wore out my arm while they caught fish. Talk about frustration: this time I left the bay mumbling to myself. It's enough to make one take up drinking. What's the answer? Or is it just plain dumb luck that others caught while I practiced jigging techniques?

Casey Nichols.

Dear Casey,

Join the club. I can't think of any fisherman I've known who has not been through the same ordeal. As you say, it is a maddening experience. Often frustrating enough to make one consider clubbing the person who is catching fish. But, chances are he or she was doing something you weren't. The addition of a slender strip of squid (along with the leadhead and plastic worm) will often cause lethargic weakfish to strike. Some weakfish hotshots also dress their bucktail and worm combo with a piece of shedder (peeler) crab to rack up impressive scores while others watch enviously.

When seeking weakfish it is advantageous to carry some sand worms or a half dozen peeler crabs as added insurance against being shut out. Some experienced weakfishermen bring the sand worms or peeler crabs and fish strictly with bait rigs to present the

Bucktail and plastic worm combos dressed with a piece of bait are deadly on weaks.

bait on or near bottom. Others simply attach a piece of crab or a whole sand worm to the bucktail and plastic worm combo. Either way, you are presenting something the fish can smell as well as see and it usually means more fish in the box at day's end. Just remember, you do not need a lot of bait to give the lure a smell that appeals to weakfish. Most fishermen cut the peelers into small pieces so they go a long way. At today's prices for peeler crab it is the sensible thing to do. Sand worms are not nearly as costly and you should use a whole worm by attaching it through the head so it hangs naturally off the hook of the bucktail. Try putting the plastic worm on first and then attaching the sand worm and see if your catches don't improve.

* * *

Dear Doc,

In a previous issue you gave the address of where to send for some good Loran charts and numbers for wrecks, structure, etc. I've just purchased a Loran and leave out of Little Egg Inlet. Could you suggest where I would best spend my money. Thank you.

Alex Martin.

Dear Alex,

There are several courses you might follow. First, visit one of the local bait and tackle shops or marinas and ask for the NOAA coastal charts. These are published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and are available all along the Atlantic Seaboard at reasonable prices. They do not, however, list the wrecks or structure. But the NOAA charts are excellent for the fisherman who fishes offshore waters in that they do show changes in water depths which usually means some type of underwater structure.

Capt. Vic Enterprises in Miltown, New Jersey markets a series of charts which do give some Loran numbers of wrecks and structure. These are available at most marinas and bait shops (New Jersey waters only) or can be ordered directly through Capt. Vic's.

The New Jersey Salt Water Fishing Guide, written by Capt. Pete Barrett and distributed through Barrett Productions is available at many marinas and tackle shops throughout New Jersey. It contains a listing of some popular wrecks and structure areas along the New Jersey coast but does not cover other coastal states. If you can't find the N.J. Salt Water Fishing Guide at a local store, you can get it from The Fisherman, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Bricktown, NJ 08724 for $7.95 plus $1 for shipping and handling. Please include 6% sales tax when ordering the book. The Guide does have some charts showing courses to and from some of the offshore hotspots, but the best way to utilize the Loran numbers is to pick up a NOAA chart and use the Loran numbers from the Guide to plot courses on the chart to the offshore spots.

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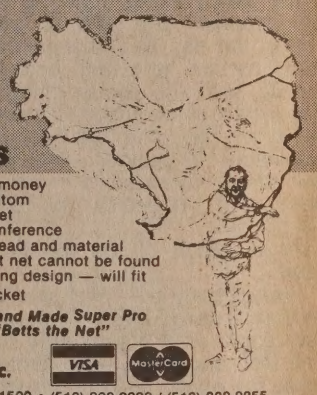

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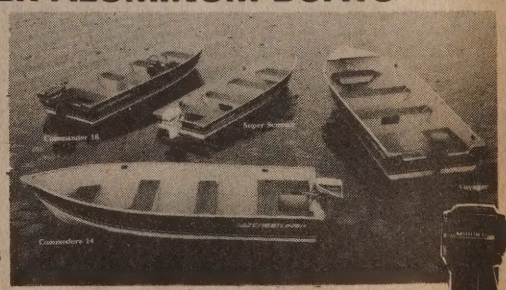

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THE DOORMAT

by Matt Ahern

When I write an old-timer story about fluke fishing in the long ago, I can guarantee an increase in reader mail. It never fails. Many readers respond in this fashion: "C'mon, Matt, don't tell us guys that of all the fluke fishing you've ever done over the years, there's only a handful that stand out."

Letters such as this became particularly noticeable several days after I'd written of two incidents—one on catching over 75 fluke while drifting around the Rockaway Point jetty in the early 30s and the other on catching doormat fluke off Sea Bright, New Jersey; none under eight pounds. These two stories were hard to swallow, I'm sure, but true nevertheless. (If these two stories caused bellyaches among some readers, wait until they read the story on teen-sized blackfish now in preparation!)

During my early fluke fishing days, most trips were made aboard party boats while fishing off Sandy Hook, with an occasional foray around Sea Bright in September where we would drift around the old pound nets. Most of the Sandy Hook fluke we caught ran between 1½ and 2 pounds. During the day each fisherman was pretty certain he'd land one over 5 pounds, with the pool-winning doormat usually going about 11 pounds. It was a rare day when the pool winner was under 10 pounds. (We seldom saw the "throwbacks" we have today—and I'd dearly like to know why.)

All of which brings me to large fluke.

The biggest fluke I ever saw landed weighed a shade under 20 pounds. It was caught on a handline by a first-time lady angler in early September as we lay anchored over the crumbling bones of an old wreck lying off Sea Bright.

There's no question that fluke was a monster. But one day I saw one even larger than that. Unfortunately, it was never landed. And surprisingly, it wasn't caught off Sandy Hook or Sea Bright, but off good old Norton's Point, Coney Island. I say "surprisingly" because we had never caught fluke larger than six pounds from that area although each summer rumor had it that huge tackle-busters prowled these grounds.

To get the proper setting for this story, I'll have to reach far into my memory—July 20, 1932, A Wednesday. How can I be so exact as to the precise date and day? Not difficult at all. I've got it right before me in one of my old record books. (Incidentally, this is a good tip for you young fishermen. Keep those records! They will prove invaluable some day—just as mine are to me today.)

But anyway, as I was about to say before I sidetracked myself, what I'm going to relate occurred a long time ago when I was a mere tad of 18, but it is so deeply etched in memory, it seems to have occurred only last week.

During the early part of that summer of 1932, my fishing buddy Artie Leidecker became acquainted with a sinker bouncer who worked with Artie's dad. This fellow owned a neat little 24 footer which he kept moored in Canarsie and used exclusively for Jamaica Bay and Rockaway Inlet fluke chasing.

"Jim stopped reeling, stunned at the sight. Artie and I stood mesmerized. Never had we seen a fluke this size. The fluke caught by that lady angler less than a year before was small potatoes compared to this one."

This was all Artie had to know. He made it a point to cultivate this gentleman with undivided attention. It was shameful and often embarrassing to hear Artie tell it. All I'll say is that it does indeed take a fishing fanatic to fawn over another fisherman the way Artie Did. But it worked and eventually Artie introduced me to this fisherman, a real nice guy whose name was Jim Sheppard. We two fish-happy kids went overboard, showering Jim with glowing tales of Sandy Hook's great fluke fishing. There was good reason for this. Few fishermen those days owned their own boat and we had no intention of allowing such a golden opportunity to slip by. I guess we worked poor Jim over pretty good.

I'm sure, however, that this lily gilding was really unnecessary, for there never lived a fisherman worth his salt who wouldn't take a gamble on a prospect of good fishing. And Jim was no exception. The upshot was that we made plans to leave at daybreak two days hence—the memorable Wednesday which was to produce the biggest fluke I've ever seen.

We left Canarsie the instant a tint of gray showed in the eastern sky, our enthusiasm urging us to hurry lest we lose even one golden moment of the glorious day which lay before us. By the time we reached the inlet, making one fast stop at Louis' Pier for a supply of live killies, it was full daylight. But alas, much to our disappointment, we found a good breeze making up from the south. For party boats this posed no problem, but for a 24 footer, it was something to consider.

Once we got outside the inlet proper, it wasn't too bad, but we knew it might become worse on the next tidal change. Sandy Hook was definitely out. What to do? It was Jim who suggested Norton's Point, telling us that if the wind freshened we could make it back to safety in jig time. That was enough for us. Away we went.

Because of that south wind we began our first drift a mile or so offshore. This would allow us plenty of fishing time before it would become necessary to run back for a new drift.

Well, as it was in those days, we didn't have to wait long for action. The belly of the first fluke to come aboard was cut into strips and a slice placed on the hook along with a live killy. This was the preferred bait for ocean fluke fishing those days. It also accounted for most of the doormat fluke we caught then.

Somewhere during our third or fourth drift we hit into an area that produced a super-abundance of fluke—the three of us frequently having a fish on at the same time. Eventually we ran out of the action and Jim started up and ran us back, jockeying the boat into what he hoped would carry us over the same spot.

It was right then when it happened. I recall Artie saying "I just missed a big fish, dammit!"

Jim, who was fishing alongside Artie chimed in with: "That's just fine, kid. You miss a big fish and I'm stuck on bottom." Because of the rate of drift, Jim's line peeled off the wooden sidewinder at a good clip, and when it looked like the line would soon be depleted, he grasped the reel

handles tightly and attempted to free the rig. He did—or so he thought.

Jim began to reel in and once again the line was snubbed short. "Damned if I'm not hung up again," he complained in exasperation. "What's goin' on down there?"

It was Artie who supplied the answer. "You're not stuck!" he cried out. "You've got a big fish on!" And sure enough, I could see the rod arc and suddenly come to life, taking on a set only a doormat fluke can make.

Artie and I quickly reeled in to allow the struggling fisherman every advantage. While I offered encouragement and kept a weather eye on the drift, Artie stood close by with the long-handled net. It was touch and go for a few minutes and as I sit here before this typewriter, I can still hear Jim's sidewinder creak with strain. This, Artie and I agreed, was some fish. Minutes passed but slowly and surely Jim gained the upper hand.

I guess a full ten minutes went by before the fish surfaced a dozen feet out from us, and here it floated in exhaustion, undulating with the swells, its enormous mouth open and weakly shaking its head in feeble efforts to shake free of the hook.

Jim stopped reeling, stunned at the sight. Artie and I stood mesmerized. Never had we seen a fluke this size. The fluke caught by that lady angler less than a year before was small potatoes compared to this one.

"Good God!" murmured Jim.

Artie reached over the low rail. "Try to reel it closer. I'll try to get the net under it. Careful now."

But it was a lost cause. There was no net on board wide enough to accommodate that fluke. Jim reeled the fish close enough, and Artie succeeded in getting its head inside the net, but that was as far as it would go. The breadth of its body was absolutely too wide for the net's circumference. I'm positive that fluke weighed over 25 pounds—which is quite possible since the largest recorded is 26 pounds. Its length was difficult to distinguish clearly because much of it was below the surface, but it had to be three feet long—probably three and a half. Like a young halibut, Artie said later.

What we needed to handle that monster was a gaff, but there was none on board. So we did the next best thing. Artie reached over, wrapped the upper part of the leader about his wrist, took a second hold close to the hook and attempted to lift the fluke aboard. A neat trick if it works, but it rarely does with doormat fluke, and surely not with one of this size.

There was a sudden commotion, a few choice cuss words from Artie, and the fish was gone, floating out beyond reach for several seconds before it recouped its strength and disappeared below the surface.

So ends the sad story of the largest fluke I've ever seen...and you can bet it was a long time before I ceased dreaming of that particular fish.

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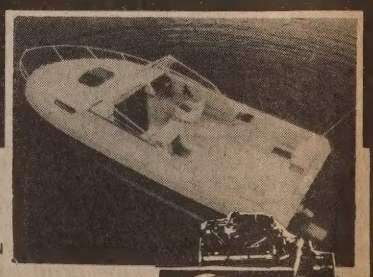

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SUMMER DIVERSION FOR THE SHOREBOUND

by Gerald Hahn

Long Island is blessed with numerous locations where shore casters can count on ambushing a fluke or two.

Last season was one of the worst fluke seasons in a decade. Party boat fishermen as well as fishermen in private vessels and rental skiffs experienced unusually poor fishing during July and August, especially in the eastern half of Long Island. Montauk's North Rips, for example, an area that ordinarily yields great numbers of large fluke, suddenly went dead and some party boats switched to daytime bluefishing for the first time in years. Similarly, on several trips to the Ruins, a highly popular and crowded fluke spot north of Gardiner's Island, my friend Harry and I found neither fluke nor fishermen. Some people attributed the sudden decline to a lack of baitfish in the water. The scarcity of baitfish, however, was undoubtedly due to a greater problem: an unusual bloom of brown algae in some South Shore and East End bays. The diatoms in the algae were too small to be filtered by clams, scallops and other bivalves, and shellfish beds were devastated. At the same time, the algae took oxygen and nutrients from the shallow waters and fish that usually thrive here, such as fluke and porgies, headed to other places. Thus, shorebound fishermen were especially hard hit.

Even under normal circumstances, fluke fishing from shore is far from torrid. Two seasons ago, I saw an angler put away eight fluke during an evening tidal change, and his catch was the best I had seen in years. One reason why fluke are hard to catch from shore is that they do not school up as densely as porgies or flounder. Another is that they often move back and forth along their extended terrain, along vast channels and flats. Fluke, unlike blackfish are not homebodies.

In June, when the fluke first arrive, and again in September, when they depart, they are taken primarily along the South Shore inlets, the narrow passages that connect the Atlantic Ocean with various bays. At Shinnecock Inlet's west jetty, for example, I have taken fluke during these two months both inside the inlet and on the ocean side, where a bar curves to the southwest. The channel edge on the backside of Moriches Inlet also

holds fluke at this time, as does the sand bar off the radio shack at Jones Inlet.

During the hot summer months, however, I find more fluke in the bays than at the major inlets. For by then, the fish have settled in the warm shallows, where they find ample food. Typical fluke spots in the bays are along the flats, sand bars and channel edges at such places as Heckscher State Park, the main channel under the Smith Point Bridge in Moriches Bay and various back bay inlets such as Three Mile Harbor in Gardiner's Bay.

Thus, if you want to catch fluke, you must try different types of water at various times of the season. You must also adjust tackle, rigs and bait accordingly. For example, although a light 7 foot spinning outfit matched with a small reel such as the Penn 450 spooled with 10 lb. test is adequate at most bay spots, an 8 foot jetty stick wtih a medium sized surf spinning reel, such as the Penn 650 spooled with 15 lb. test, is necessary for fishing an ocean inlet. The strong current and the rocks spilling off the inlet jetties require a greater amount of lead and a heavier running line.

Depending on where you fish for fluke, the rigs will vary as well. At South Shore inlets, a 2/0 beak hook snelled to a 2 foot leader of 30 lb. tst should be used. An end loop on the running line holds a 3 to 5 ounce bank sinker, and 3 inches above, a dropper loop secures the snelled hook. Although a similar rig could be used for bay fishing, with perhaps a shorter snell of 18 inches, a Florida rig is more effective, particularly where the current runs slowly over sand bottom. This rig consists of a 1 ounce egg sinker (the kind with a hole through the center) threaded on the running line above a barrel swivel. One end of the swivel is tied to the running line with an improved clinch knot and the other end receives the looped end of the snelled hook. The sliding egg sinker cannot strike the hook, because of the intervening swivel. The sinker, moreover, rolls on the sand bottom and enhances the bait's movement. Lastly, it offers little resistance when a fluke picks up the bait. A variant of this rig is formed with a small in-line trolling sinker. Unless you are looking for other species while fishing for fluke, it is best to use a single hook for the rig. The high-low rigs that are commonly seen on boats are too cumbersome and wasteful for shore fishing. Fluke are seldom attracted to the top hook and the chance of tangling is increased.

Baits should selected carefully for the particular spot you intend to cover. At a South Shore inlet, the cheapest and simplest and often the most deadly bait is a strip of squid. This bait is not only highly visible, it is tough enough to withstand the strong currents and cluttered bottom of an inlet. Cut the strip into a pennant shape, about 1/2 inch wide and 3 inches long and peel off the speckled skin. Hook the strip once near the wide end, so that it streams in the current. Frozen baits, such as spearing and sand eels, make poor baits at the ocean inlets. Unless the water is unusually calm, they soon fall apart. However, fresh bait, such as live killies and snappers, are excellent for inlet fishing. Live killies are available at many fishing stations and bait shops, and they can be kept alive for hours in the skiff renter's "killie box," a simple wood box with a screen door. Float this miniature bait well in the water on a rope tied to a rock or a piece of driftwood. A live killie should be hooked through the lips and fished as is, or in combination with a squid strip. Snappers, though not sold as bait, are available to the shore-bound angler in August and September. Bring along an ultra-light fishing outfit and tie on a small metal spoon (1/2 oz.), and you will soon have an ample supply of lively snappers. After catching one, transfer it to your fluke rig, hooking the baitfish in the shoulder, ahead of the dorsal fin. Since snappers are larger than the other baits mentioned, they are fished without squid.

A brace of nice fluke taken from inside Fire Island Inlet.

Even if they expire, they remain effective for both inlet and bay fishing. One day last summer, I saw five anglers fishing for fluke at the Three-Mile Harbor Inlet. Most was using thawed out frozen baits. Only one of them had taken a brace of thick 15 inch fluke. He was using killies he had netted in the morning. Three years ago, I had the same experience with a friend in Rhode Island, off the Portsmouth Pier. I spent some time snagging tinker mackerel, which I transferred to my friend's fluke rig.

(Continued on next page.)

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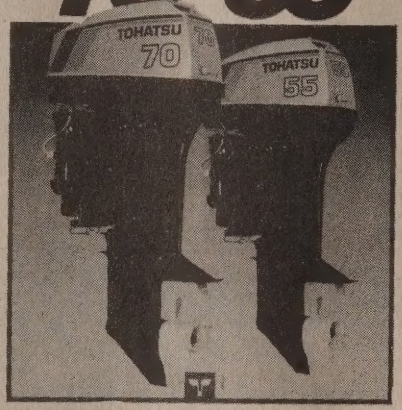

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Among 20 fishermen at this popular spot, my friend wound up high hook on fluke, as well as on tailor blues. I was his live bait supplier.

In calm bay spots, however, frozen baits are perfectly adequate. Hook one through the eyes or through the mouth and out the gill cover and then near the tail. Add a strip of squid for greater movement and visibility. Frozen baits should be stored in a shady spot; otherwise their bellies burst and their flesh turns to mush.

Some fishermen have success with artificials tipped with squid. A chromed spoon weighing 3/4 to 1 oz. or a 3/8 oz. all-white leadhead bucktail or whiptail will take fluke from shore. Several times last year, in fact, I managed a few fluke on these lures without the addition of squid.

No matter whether you favor live or dead baits or various lures for fluke, this kind of fishing is not static. There is something to be learned from boat fishermen who catch fluke primarily by drifting. Casting to a likely spot and spiking the rod sometimes works, but working the rig will put more fish on the stringer. In calm spots, the rig should be cast and then retrieved slowly, a few feet at a time, the rig should be cast and then retrieved slowly, a few feet at a time, with long, easy pulls on the rod and pauses along the way. Lures should be worked in the same manner, bumping them along the bottom and retrieving them slowly. In a stronger current, another method involves drifting the lure. Cast to the upcurrent side of a sand bar or a channel edge and let the current carry the rig to it. Sometimes it may seem as though the rig is nearly onshore, yet it will find the right place where fluke lurk.

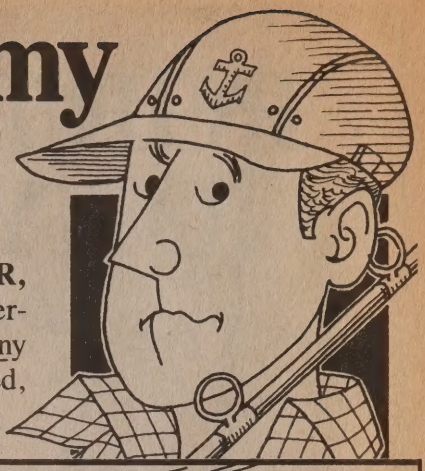
Fluke are aggressive predators that favor a moving bait. They like to hide at the bottom of the slopes and wait for baitfish to be carried over them. Then they move with surprising swiftness, even giving chase to a struggling baitfish.

Generally, surfcasters encounter few short striking fluke than boat fishermen. And the fish are easier to beach than to net from a boat. In fact, once it is hooked, a fluke gives little resistance; it simply glides over the smooth bottom like an omelette in a well-greased skillet.

The best fishing times are around tidal changes. The incoming tide is favored in thin water. Figure about two hours before to two hours after high slack. Avoid fishing in rough, weedy water, the kind that occurs after a heavy rain or a period of high winds. Since fluke are a warm water species, they can be taken in the middle of the day, although early morning and late afternoon tidal changes are best.

Let's hope that last season's algae will not reappear this summer and that the toll it took was slight. With a return to normal fishing conditions, you can expect a fair return in fluke caught, one of the finest eating fish in the northeast.

Troll 9 lines from my outboard? No way!



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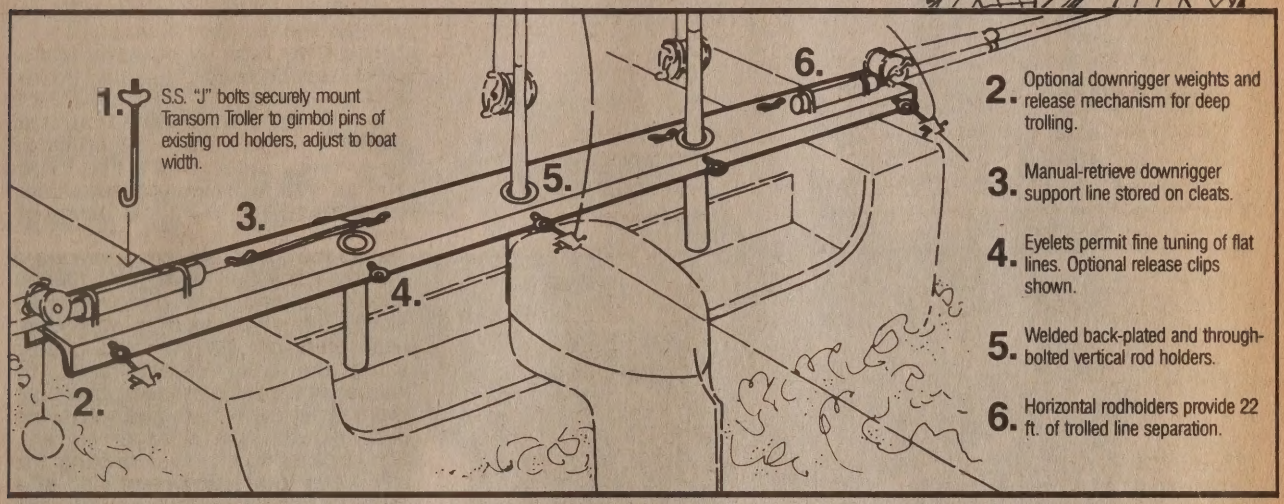
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PORT JEFFERSON DAY TRIPPERS

by Brian Mulholland

Does your spouse fish? I first pulled my reluctant fiancee aboard a party boat about four years ago, well before we were married. A fishing trip doesn't mean as much to her as it does to me, but she does enjoy an occasional trip. I look forward to those occasions when she's willing to come along.

Roseann and I caught the Port Jefferson Prowler day bluefish trip on July 19th, a Saturday morning. Like most party boats on pleasant weekend days, the boat was full, but expectations of fish were good enough so that no one particularly minded. We had gotten there early enough to settle into a stern corner and make a quick trip across the street for a bag of ice at Sutler's—a necessary step any time you fish from the end of May through September.

Roseann was carrying a large baitcasting outfit, a Shakespeare 1984 on a rod I built on a Fenwick 908 blank. The outfit casts well, although it's weak for a jigging rod. I had a much heavier outfit, a Newell 229 on a PacificStik; this is my standard party boat outfit.

The shoals outside Port Jefferson Harbor are a popular stopping place for many anglers, and they were jammed as usual on this occasion. Because they are so close to the harbor mouth, you can get there and fish in virtually anything that floats, and everything from large cruisers and sportfishermen down to rental skiffs and a couple of inflatables were spiraling back and forth across the shoals and bouncing jigs off the bottom.

Everybody was catching fish, but the bride had a field day. I'm not sure what she was doing so much better than the rest of us, but I was too busy unhooking her fish for most of the first two hours at that site to fish more than a few moments at a time. There was a steady pick of fish around the boat, but she had two or three strikes to anyone else's one.

Part of the reason she was able to fish freely despite relative inexperience was the anti-backlash mechanism on the reel. There were a number of infrequent anglers distributed around the boat using rental tackle. All of them were occasionally obliged to stop and undo backlashes despite the mate's patient instruction to keep one thumb on the reel while the jig went down. The same anti-backlash mechanism as makes casting easier also smooths out reel use when jigging, and for this reason a large baitcaster is a good reel to give a beginner if the fish are small enough and the water shallow enough to permit it.

She was doing something else right that didn't occur to me until later. I had tied a relatively small diamond jig to the end of her line, a plain one ounce diamond, and this may have been a better match for the bait then the two and three ounce jigs the rest of us were using. The sand eels regurgitated by bluefish on the deck were all very small, two inches long and an eighth of an inch in diameter or less. It's hard to say that a one ounce diamond is a "realistic" imitation of such small bait, but she received two or three hits to anyone else's one. The size of the jig may have been a part of it.

The other factor that may have mattered was retrieval speed: not too

slow, but not too fast either. The 229 I used has a 5 to 1 retrieve ratio, and when fully loaded with line it's faster than most reels. Following the captain's instructions to "work those reels hard," I and the other anglers on board cranked as furiously as we could. Roseann was cranking hard too, but her reel had a lower gear ratio and a smaller spool size. I slowed down to match her retrieval speed and got more hits than I'd gotten previously.

What about casting? I did some casting, but on this occasion it didn't seem to make a difference. Sometimes it does help. Roseann didn't bother to cast at all and filled the cooler by simply jigging.

After the fares had had a chance to put some small blues in their buckets, Captain Cash took the boat in pursuit of bigger fish. We made a couple of unproductive drops off Stony Brook harbor and then headed out to a mid-Sound location where a convention of party boats and sport fishermen was taking place.

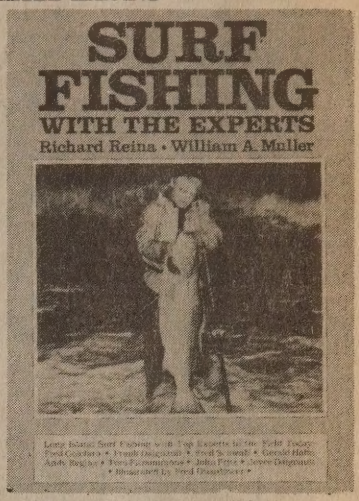
This drop was in fairly deep water, 115 feet or so, and the fish were bigger and more closed mouthed than their scrappy cousins outside the harbor mouth. Pickups came more slowly, but the fish were bigger and the 8 lb. blue that took the pool came from this location. The Captain repeatedly saw large shoals of blues on the fish finder. Presumably they saw us too, but for the most part they kept their mouths shut. I'm not at all sure what we could have done to catch their interest. I did try working a large bucktail and feather teaser on the bottom, but the jig and feather arrangement sank too slowly, and I gave it up and went back to a diamond for the sake of better line control. In shallower waters a bucktail and feather has been productive when the fish are feeding on small bait, but nothing sinks quite so well as a diamond jig, and in deep water you need more weight on the bucktail than may be practical in order to maintain some contact with what your payload is doing. Roseann's strikes were also fewer—not that that prevented her from doing better than me—and the trouble she had in wrestling a couple of fish illustrated the chief limitation of a baitcasting reel: the spool gets too small with 50 yards of line out to make a fast retrieve possible. In this respect, the larger casting reels in the general size bracket of a Squidder are much superior.

We were back at the dock by 3PM or so, since the boat had a 4:30 trip for the afternoon and evening. The average bucket had 10 or 12 pairs of fillets in it and I don't think anyone went home disappointed. All in all, the day was a model of Long Island Sound bluefishing: calm sea conditions and an abundance of small and scrappy bluefish. If you'd like to take an infrequent angler out for a day's bluefishing, and you want to avoid making an endurance contest of it, the North Shore is the place to go.

Finally ... The Surf Book That Tells It All!

SURF FISHING
WITH THE EXPERTS

By Richard Reina And William A. Muller



Finally, a surf book that lays bare all the nitty gritty secrets that help to explain why ten percent of the fishermen catch 90% of the fish! Although this book was authored mainly by Long Island Surf fishermen, there's much more to this book than a discussion of Long Island Surf fishing. Do you like to fish the beaches at Cape Cod, or have you dreamed of fishing there? Well then, this book has just what you need; a chapter devoted to the hows, whys, and whens or Cape Cod surf fishing by Frank Daignault. Perhaps Montauk is the spot that makes your blood boil. Yes, there's a chapter especially about this famous surf fishing spot too, authored by Fred Schwab whose been a "regular" there for about twenty years. The book is loaded with how-to chapters about gear you'll need to get started, casting techniques, the effect of winds, tides, and moon phases on surf fishing, how to use artificials and when, bait rigs and baitfishing techniques, as well as informative chapters about the history of surf fishing, how to start a surf fishing club, and how to successfully release fish. All of these chapters and more cover information and techniques that work on all beaches. This surf fishing book offers another bonus. Although a lot of attention is given to fishing for bass, blues, and weaks, there are also sections on surf fishing for fluke, flounder, blackfish (tautog), mackerel, whiting, kingfish, and porgies (scup). Most surf fishing books ignore these species, but not this book, because we know how many surf fishermen like to catch these fish for fun and the table. And ladies, we haven't forgotten you either, More and more women are enjoying surf fishing. We asked Joyce Daignault to write a chapter on this facet of the sport since she's spent many hours in the suds on many beaches. Her comments are provocative but right on target. There's more too, but discover it for yourself, such as illustrations by Fred Guardineer. L.I.F. Publishing, 252 pages, photos and illustrations.

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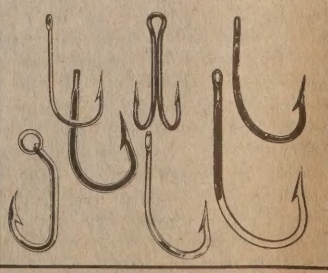

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LUNKER BASSIN' THE ULTRALIGHT WAY

by Carl Buxbaum

The author makes a convincing case for including featherweight tackle in the arsenal of bassmen.

Largemouth bass put up a spectacular fight. They burrow down, dive for cover and, best of all, jump and dance on the surface. But in truth they're not exceptionally powerful. No matter how big, how fat, or how muscular a bass, the fight is usually short—though very sweet. With all the talk about beefy tackle, 20 lb. mono, and clamped down drags to subdue lunkers, in fact, they're easily overpowered by most run of the mill bassin' gear. It's a fair bet that half the jumps are caused by exuberant anglers yanking fish from the water, with tackle that reached overkill in the arms race of fishing. And a good deal of real sporting fun is sacrificed.

Now it's true that bass love cover and heavy equipment is designed to keep them from diving into weeds, rocks and deadfalls, where they can tangle line and break off. Yet there's got to be a better way to handle such situations. After all, I've beached 11 lb. weakfish on 10 lb. line and stripers near 40 lbs. (in the wild tides and rock strewn surf of Montauk) on 15 lb. line. These marine species are all tougher than any bigmouth that ever lived and I'm not exactly a perfect surf fisher. So, why not try scaling down bass gear to match the fighting abilities of the quarry.

About three years ago, I started careful experiments with 4 lb. line and ultralight spin tackle for largemouths. The results were so fantastic that by the second season I shifted to 2 lb. line. But there were many problems at first.

The biggest disappointment was that my ultralight gear seemed to catch only ultralight bass, and I couldn't seem to avoid messing with tiny panfish. The answer seemed to be in the big baits-big fish theory. But most big lures are too heavy and some too water resistant, to cast or work well with a wispy rod. The search began for big lures weighing under a quarter ounce and balsa wood slim minnow plugs came to the rescue. While most fshermen find these swimmers troublesome, because they cast poorly, they're ideal for spider web gauged lines and noodly rods.

Casting distance is more than adequate and because the action inducing lips are small, these plugs can be retrieved without the rod getting bent in half by water resistance. The 3½ and 4½ inch Rapalas, as well as the 4¼ inch Bagley's Bang-O-Lure, have proven themselves as killers. Each has taken at least one largemouth in the 5 lb. range.

But these are topwater or shallow running lures that are near impossible to use on windy days, and I wasn't satisfied with tightly constrained opportunities for ultralight bassing. The experiments continued, and I discovered how much largemouths love unweighted plastic worms on a slow swim. Six to 8 inch sizes turn on big fish. Floating versions pass for cruising snakes, but sinking ones, like Mann's Jelly Worms, seem more desirable to bass as they slither, every so slowly, toward bottom. Instead of letting the worm drift all the way down, swim it back to the surface and let it fall again. Repeat this action until the worm is at the boat or gets snatched. It's not that this is the best retrieve—there just isn't much choice. Ultralight gear lacks the power to drive a hook point through a plastic worm with enough reserve energy to sting a bass. Weed guards also impede hook setting and aren't worth much on flimsy tackle. So a worm must be rigged with an exposed bare hook. Let that rig reach weeds or bottom, and you'll never get it back.

Still, more versatility was needed—especially a deep water strategy. And I began thinking of ways to make standard ultralight lures longer and bulkier, while keeping total weight under a quarter ounce. Though the balsa minnows and worms continue to be best for bass over 4 lbs., I found other offerings that greatly increased catches of nice enough fish, were deadly on 3 lbers. and sometimes took a lunker, too.

I started with 1/16 to 1/8 ounce jigs, spoons, in-line spinners, and safety-pin type spinnerbaits and dressed them with soft tails—thus converting a basic panfish selection into bass getters. Three and four inch twister tails, by Mister Twister, are effective and more convenient to use than pork rinds; which at best are a bit messy, next to impossible to remove from a hook without surgery, and turn stiff as rawhide when dry. Because the hooks on tiny lures are also tiny, it's necessary to modify the heads of twister tails. Otherwise, the hooks would be buried in plastic. I use my pocket knife to trim the plastic until the hook point is clearly exposed, beyond the barb. The end result on some lures, say a treble hooked 1/16 oz. Panther Martin, leaves the plastic head at less than half the original thickness. But you have a livelier and lighter tail, which I'm convinced is more attractive to bass.

As might be expected, it's easy to get largemouths to strike these lures—the trouble is landing one on ultralight gear. My first hook-up with a big fish was a disaster. A 4¼ inch Bang-O-Lure, at the end of 4 lb. line, splashed down next to some lily pads. It vanished in a shower just as the bail slammed shut, the rod bent to a "C," drag squealed and the fish did whatever it pleased. But mainly it ran back through the pads, meticulously threading line around every available stem. I put pressure on, and the pads swayed in a gentle Hula dance. The bass tugged and the pads jumped. Finally, the pads moved only in response to the rod. The fish was off. Guiding my canoe through the green, I followed the line to the plug, securely hooked into a lily stem of the redwood class.

But the line didn't break. What did that mean? Among other things, it meant that the drag could have been tighter. Also, the fish wasn't hooked very well—certainly not in comparison to the lily stem hook-up.

Something was learned about big fish on light tackle since then. Thin monofilament stretches, with lots of give, and a delicate rod also has lots of give. The combined shock absorbing action has two effects: line doesn't break as easily as you might think (unless worn and nicked) and even when the rod is doubled over, not all that much power is transmitted to the lure. This means you need razor sharp hooks and drag settings at about 60 percent of the line's estimated breaking strength. Even tighter drags would be fine at the end of the cast, but there's less line out to absorb errors when fish are worked close to the boat. You must be ready for that mono testing, final, desperate run or gill rattling leap. That's another thing I learned the hard way.

Even with the sharpest, fine wire

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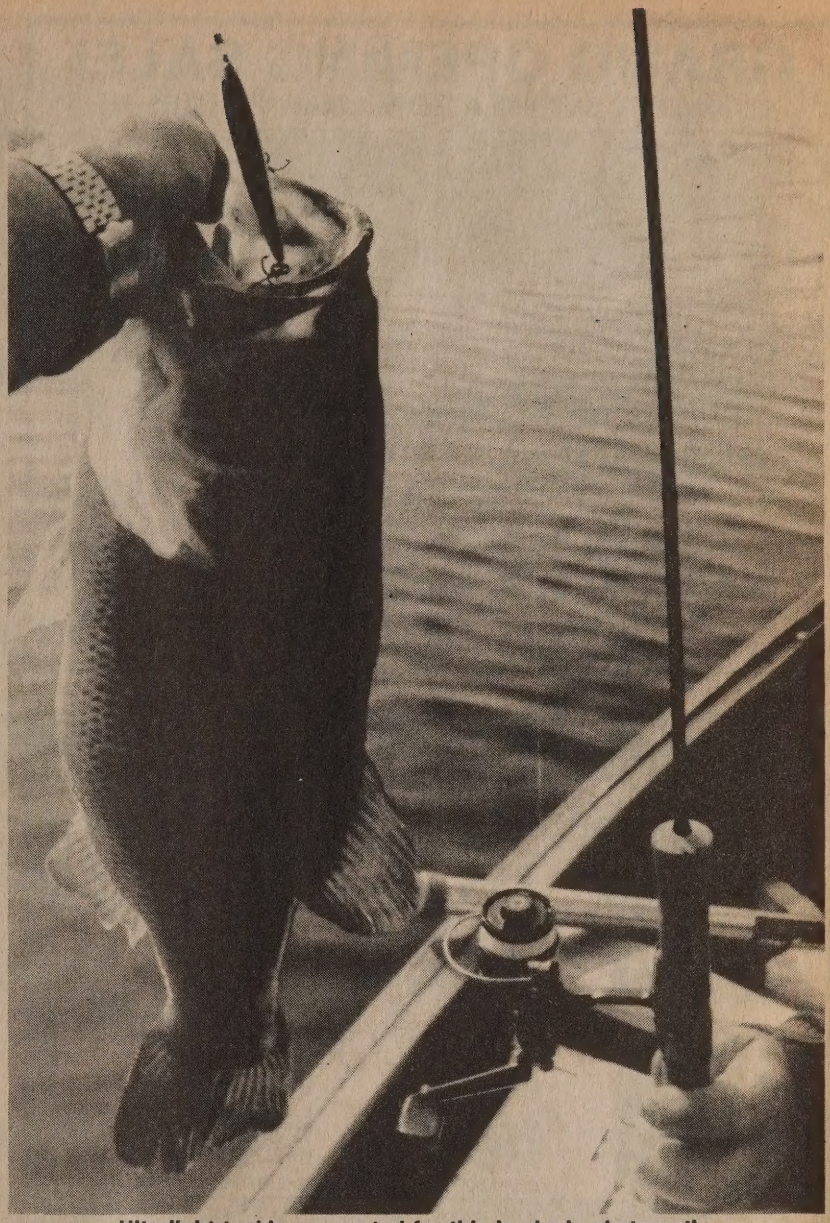

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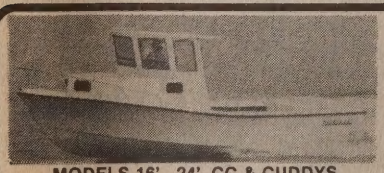

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hooks and a tight drag, though, I couldn't have kept that fish out of the pads, because there was enough flex in the rod for the brute to gain the half foot needed to make home. Fishermen must be extra alert in these situations. The trick is to strike so instantly and hard that you get the fish coming toward you, before the instinctive head for shelter response is triggered. Then, you keep it coming by holding the rod straight up, with both arms extended fully overhead. It's as if the ultralight becomes the fast tip of a longer rod, and the angler's arms are like a powerful butt section forcing the fish to cope with an unrelenting pressure, until it's played out.

I finally began mastering these techniques last season and was happy to have a witness to confirm my story. Arthur Gordon kept looking back at me from the bow of the canoe, as if I were crazy. In my hand was a silly little rod, with a reel that seemed right for a charm bracelet. The 2 lb. line was almost invisible as it followed a 4½ inch balsa minnow, which hit the water a couple of inches off a stand of reeds. I dropped the rod tip to water level and cranked slack out of the line, never taking eyes off the plug, then twitched the rod so the minnow's face was dunked and took up the inch of new slack.

Sometime in the instant between the swirl and the splash, I jerked the rod straight up, overhead and back, until the rod tip nearly touched the butt. The bass was out of the reeds with crossed eyes before it knew what happened. It sounded, bulldogging for bottom and stole some line, but the steady pressure above snubbed the urgent press for cover. Taking another tack, the intrepid brute headed for open, deep water. That was the beginning of the end for the fish. I had it where I wanted. The long run toward the middle of the lake took lots of line, but the fish never got deep and was mostly spent by the end. I lowered the rod and let it straighten some as the fish got closer to the boat, because it was a sure thing that the bass would take off again, once it saw the enemy and with the shortened line there would be less stretch on the initial shock, before the drag let go. The beast took off and the rod went back into a full bend, absorbing the shock. More drag. More pumping. A feeble attempt to et under the canoe failed. "Net! Get the net, Arthur." He was unprepared. I hardly ever call for a net. But with two pound line, you don't diddle around trying to lift a lunker's head with rod pressure, while aiming to get a thumb in its mouth. One last lunge, on a short line with a rod bent to the limit, and the fine mono pops.

The beast was 19½ inches long and tipped the scale just shy of 5 lbs. The date was June 1, 1985—opening day of Long Island's bass season. Can you think of a more sporting way to kick things off? Arthur bought an ultralight outfit, in a matter of days.

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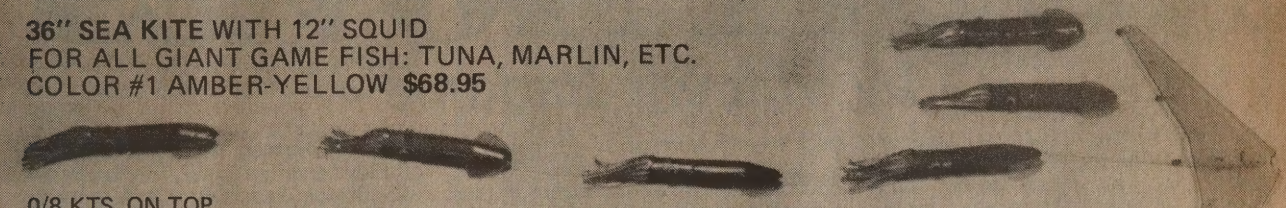

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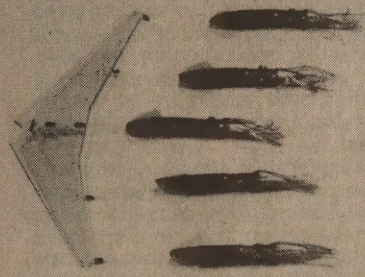

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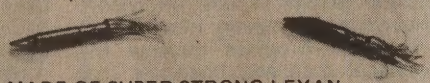

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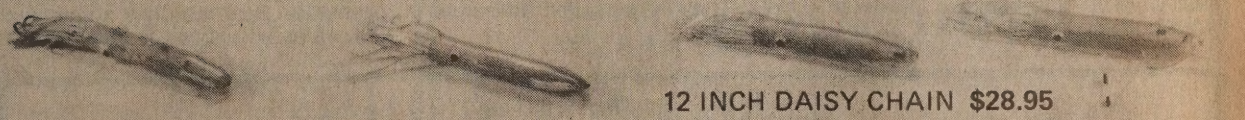

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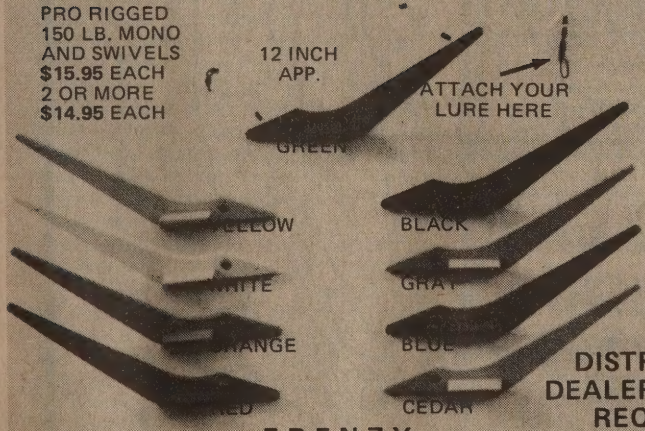

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— JAMAICA BAY —
NIGHT MOVES

by Vincent Badame

As dusk settles in, large weakfish begin to edge their way out of deep water in search of food. With summer's busy boat traffic racing overhead during the day, weaks get too shook up to think about food. Their only concern is to get away from the surface activity. This means hugging bottom in the deepest available water. As night falls, it's time to chow down any careless baitfish that comes within range.

Under the cover of moonlight, these fanged game fish seek out forage like mossbunker and snappers inside Jamaica Bay or Rockaway Inlet. Once found, weaks surround the panic stricken baitfish and with their keen senses, select cripples or stragglers from the group as their prime targets. When the right moment is at hand, the weaks rush their targets, clamp down on the baitfish's body and proceed to turn and swallow their victims whole. This is one of three reasons why mossbunker literally explode through the surface in the back bays in summer.

To understand the weaks' daily habits better, let's follow the fish (and fishermen too!) in a 24-hour cycle that starts before twilight and is repeated regularly from June through September.

The quickest way to tell when the weaks are on the move toward shore is watch for the sun to hover over the Verrazano Bridge in late afternoon. By that time weaks have moved from the Tin Can Grounds through the many shoal cuts and channels that lead to Rockaway Inlet. Many Sheepshead party boat captains know this. They will drift close inshore to Breezy Point or off Coney Island's beaches while passengers jig tube-tailed diamonds just above the bottom for Jamaica Bay bound tiderunners.

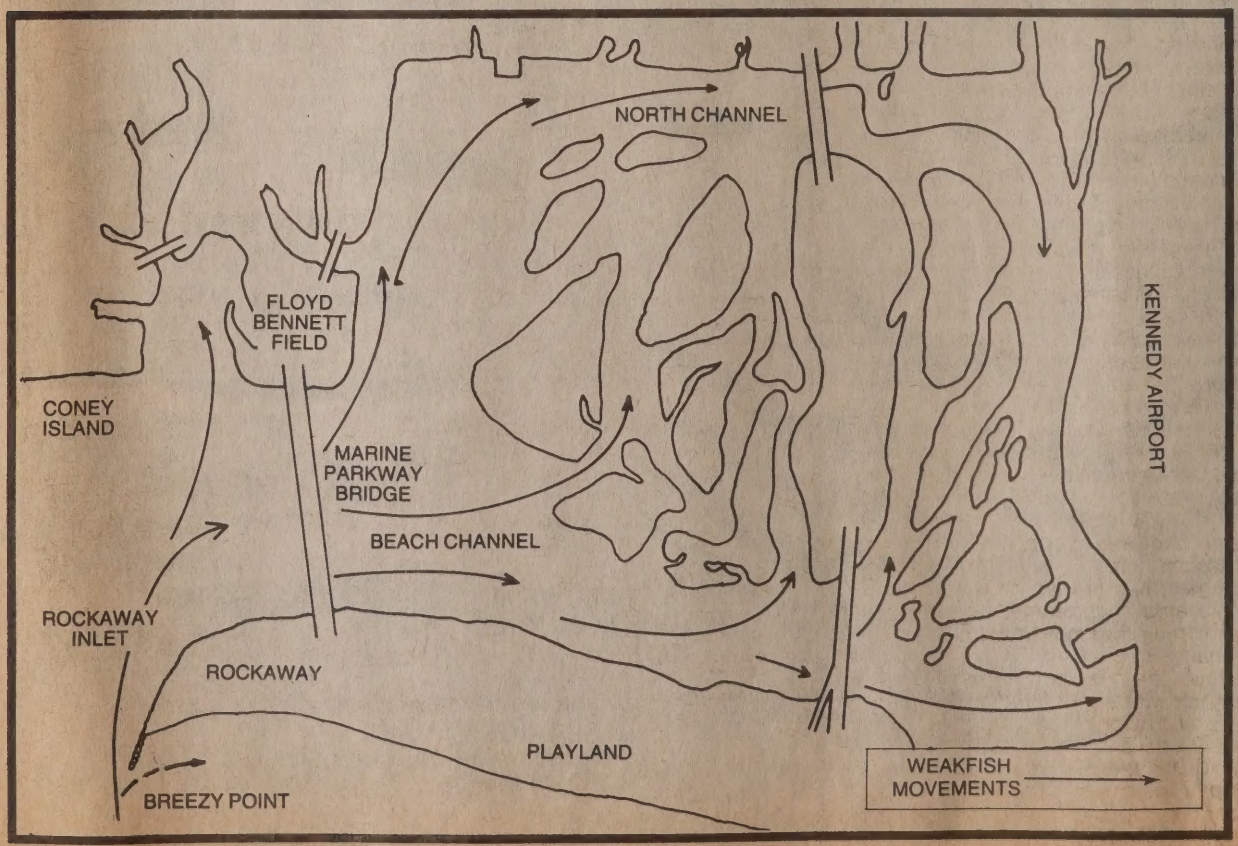
With the start of an incoming tide between 7 to 11 PM, schooling weakfish will drift with the tide into Jamaica Bay as far back as Mott Creek. They're not called tiderunners for nothing!

Boat fishermen wait for the weaks off Floyd Bennett Field, Marine Parkway Bridge and Kennedy Airport to get their licks in. In the bait department, bunker fillets or live bunker are used.

Bridges and piers that skirt or cross the bay are good spots to fish for weaks with fresh bunker as bait. There are quite a few groups of fishermen who specialize in bridge fishing for tiderunners. Yours truly included.

Because you do not have to worry about engine noise that often spooks nearby fish, bridge anglers often outfish fishermen in boats. Especially those boatmen who zoom into position at full throttle. Weakfish pros cut their boat engines and drift silently into the areas they wish to fish. Anglers like these might outfish even the bridge crowd at times.

Either from boat or bridge, try to use your light only to help land fish, if necessary. Beams of light shined over the water will spook feeding weaks.



Boat should only have bow or stern red lights on for protection against being rammed by other boats. And this goes for those foolish horn blowers too! Fish can hear—I kid you not. One night off a bridge, anglers had some hot weak action up until Dixie started blaring out of a nearby anchored boat. Some prankster aboard was fooling around with the ship's fog horn as they were bored, or worse. The weaks switched off pronto and didn't return to the bridge that night.

Try to be conscientious when traveling to, or through weakfish grounds in fairness to other anglers out there. If you antagonize bridge fishermen because you think you're safe aboard your boat, what follows as your ship goes under the same bridge is your own fault. Give the bridge anglers wide clearance (200 feet away from span) as you pass. It's foolish to cut fishermen's lines or drag their outfits off the bridges just for a kick. The Coast Guard has better things to do than settle disputes between bridge and boat anglers. 'Nuff said.

There are moments either in a boat or atop a bridge that you're like soldiers in trenches waiting for the enemy to charge. Schools of hungry weaks have come on like frenzied sharks off bridges inside Jamaica Bay. But anything out of the norm will spook them. You only get up to two hours of sure action so don't blow it by throwing caution to the wind with foolish behavior.

As night starts to fade into day around 4AM, weaks drop back into nearby deep water like boat channels. As the sun rises they retreat, following the channels to Rockaway Inlet. If there is no boat traffic to speak of in the inlet, weaks might stay there in the 40 foot depths. But with any steady traffic, the fish will head out the inlet back to the Tin Can Grounds in a hurry. Or will they?

On cloudy or misty rain filled days, the weaks might stay put in the bay's deep water to continue feeding as long as boats don't zip over them. Bridge fishermen might cash in on some good steady action if they are able to find a deep hole where weaks have camped. Cast a whole bunker fillet into deep water (20 feet plus) and let it sit still on the bottom. That's where the larger weaks like to eat.

Fisherman readers might find themselves asking, "How can Vince say weakfish do this?" Very simply, my fellow anglers, I've watched schools of weaks pass me by on many occasions while scuba diving inside the bay. My fish log (started over 15 years ago) is crammed with memos concerning the movement of weaks in Jamaica Bay.

And there's one other thing I learned while scuba diving this area, I've also hugged bottom while those crazy speed boats buzzed over my head, and though I'm not a fish, I can appreciate the fondness weaks have for the bottom during those hot summer days!

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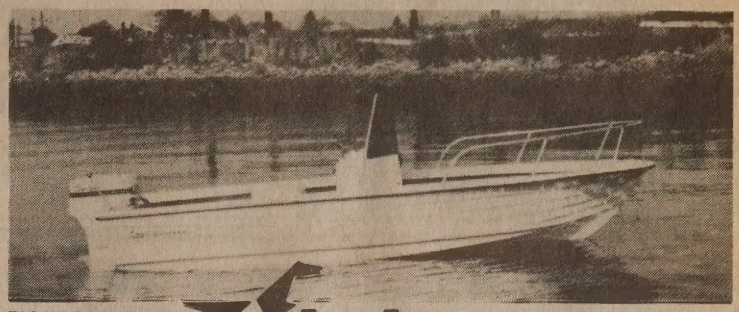

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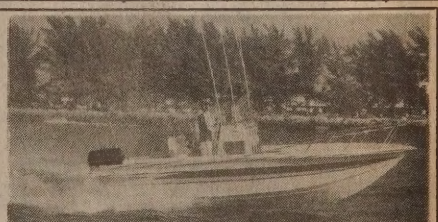

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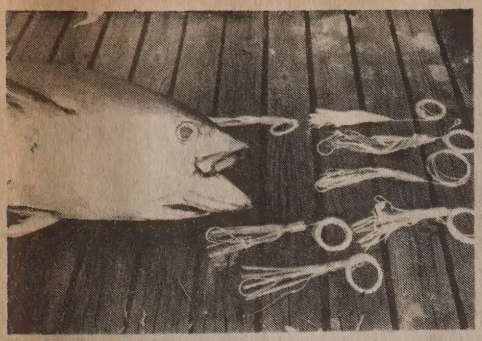

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ATLANTIC WRECK SERIES:

THE PANTHER

by John Raguso

This week's wreck takes us towards the eastern end of Long Island, to a point south of Southampton's Agawam Lake, where in about 55 feet of water rests the hulk of the ocean tug Panther. She was caught unexpectedly by a sudden gale on the evening of August 23, 1893 while towing a barge and she sank with the loss of 17 lives early the next morning on Thursday, August 24th.

A headline and subhead taken from the New York Times the day after the tragedy says it all: VESSELS COULD NOT WEATHER THE GALE. Numbers of Them Were Driven Ashore Helpless or Sank to the Bottom. Thirty-Four Men Perished. On The Ocean Tug Panther, Seventeen Men Were Lost—The Men on the Schooner Chocura Saw the Schooner Empire State Swallowed Up With Her Crew of Ten—The New Jersey Coast Strewn with Wrecks—Damage to Shipping Unparalled in Many Years."

The lead story continues with the following account: "The appalling feature of the storm that raged with such fearful fury Wednesday night and Thursday morning was the great loss of life which it caused.

"Vessels large and small were driven ashore by the wind, which blew with hurricane force. Men were swept overboard and drowned, and their bodies thrown up on the storm-lashed beaches.

"From one vessel alone, the ocean tug Panther, seventeen men were lost. Many other vessels lost men. One schooner was reported to have gone down with all on board.

"From points more remote, the telegraph brings other woeful tales of death in the tempest. Every vessel that came limping into port on Thursday, August 24th, brought evidences of struggle with wind and wave. The men had harrowing tales to tell of their dangers and sufferings and brought news that carried sadness to many homes."

The Panther had been towing a big empty coal barge, the Lykens Valley, from Boston to Philadelphia. She was paralleling the Long Island coast for a starboard bearing and at a predetermined point would cut across the Mud Hole west and keep the Jersey seaboard to her west as she headed for Cape May, the Delaware Bay, and eventually Philadelphia. However, whatever force that decrees that certain people become pawns of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, smiled unfavorably on the fates of the Panther and her crew, because she was destined to never make port again.

The New York Times coverage of the tragedy picks up the eyewitness story early the morning of August 24th, from a point on Southampton beach: "The barges were seen through the mist about four miles offshore this morning at seven o'clock. They were drifting aimlessly about and were evidently disabled.

"One of the barges, the Victor, drifted ashore at nine o'clock. When she struck the bar the lifesaving crew went to her, but found no signs of life on aboard. It was supposed that any on board had taken to the boats and drifted further down shore. Patrolmen were sent out in all directions.

"About an hour after the Victor struck a shout from one of these watchers brought the others to him. A body was seen coming ashore. It was also seen in a moment that the man was not dead. Some of the seamen sprang into the surf and dragged the sailor ashore. He was insensible.

"Suddenly there was a shout, 'Here comes another body!' Again the lifesavers sprang into the surf and dragged a man ashore, but this sailor was dead.

"From that time until two o'clock this afternoon the shipwrecked men drifted ashore, until six had come in. Three were dead and three still had a spark of life left. All of the three living were insensible when brought in, and at midnight are still unconscious.

"One of the men in conscious moments has given bits of information and then relapsed unto unconsciousness. He partially told the story of the appaling accident. It was learned from him that the tug Panther, which was towing the barges Lykens Valley and Victor, sprang a leak in the big storm off the coast at daylight. She filled so rapidly that there was no hope of saving her and

(Continued on next page.)

THE PANTHER
Vital Statistics

Date Sunk: August 24, 1893

Length (estimated): 110 to 130 feet

Hull Construction: wood and steel

Hull Condition: Broken up, but with good definition and some high points.

Depth of Water: 55 feet

Depth over Wreck: 40 to 45 feet

Lat/Lon Position: 40-50.55 N/72-23.14 W

Loran C Positon: 26248.7/43802.0

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Port	Distance (Nautical Miles)	Heading (Magnetic) To	From
Fire Island Inlet	44.8	083°	263°
Moriches Inlet	17.4	087°	267°
Shinnecock Inlet	3.9	100°	280°
Montauk Point	28.0	256°	076°

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an attempt was made by the pilot to reach shore and beach her.

"It was unsuccessful. She soon began to sink. The crew of twenty, including pilot barely had time to adjust life preservers when she sank.

"The name of this survivor is Albert Smith. He was assistant engineer of the tugboat and lives in Philadelphia, as do all of the crew. He was in such an enfeebled condition that he was unable to stand questioning. Even when conscious he was dazed, and could not remember the names of his fellow-sufferers. He could only gasp that there were twenty of them in all, the pilot, engineer, steward and general crew.

"The other two survivors were carried to the cottage of Dr. T. Gaillard Thomas and everything possible done for them by the doctor and his family.

"Smith was taken to the cottage of Mr. Baker, where he was also tended carefully.

"All of the six who came ashore, the dead and living, had life preservers upon them.

"No other bodies have come ashore as yet, and there is no possible hope that the 14 remaining members of the crew still unaccounted for have survived. Because of their having life preservers upon their bodies they will undoubtedly be washed ashore by the next incoming tide.

"The tug and barges had been to Boston from Philadelphia with a cargo of coal and were on the return trip empty when overtaken by the disaster.

"Intense excitement prevails here, and every house is ready to receive any of the poor fellows if any should drift ashore alive.

"Captain Selden Halsey of the life-saving station and his aide, Frank Burnette, have not left the beach all day, even for food. The cottagers brought them refreshments.

"At nightfall wreckage began to come ashore. A small boat, an oar and a life preserver marked 'Panther' were the first of the drift to appear. Then another crushed small boat with 'Lykens Valley, Philadelphia' upon it came.

"The dead were placed in private bathing houses. No signs of the tugboat or the second barge, the Lykens Valley, have appeared beyond the wreckage named. It is thought the barge has drifted off in a partially demolished condition.

"All of the rescued men were in the water from seven o'clock until two. All of them were naked and black and blue from head to foot from the pounding of the waves upon their bodies."

The Panther's crew consisted of 16 men, including the captain and the Lykens Valley was manned by a captain and three other men, for a total complement of twenty sailors. Contrary to initial belief, the Panther had only one barge in tow when she foundered. All of the crew from the tug and barge were from Philadelphia. The three survivors from the tragedy were Albert Smith, the assistant engineer; Edwin Cummings, a fireman; and Victor England, an able seaman.

A few days after he was washed ashore in an insensible state, survivor Edwin Cummings was able to give his version of the Panther's last voyage and her final hours.

He went on to say, "I live at Port Richmond, near Philadelphia, and first shipped as fireman aboard the Panther two months ago. We left port Richmond on Monday morning last, bound for Newburyport, Mass., and having in tow the collier barge Lykens Valley. She was empty and had four men aboard. There were 16, all told, aboard the steamer, including Capt. Pierson. We had very rough weather from the start, quite a gale blowing, with a heavy southeast swell rolling in. Monday night the sea was all afire and big clouds were all over the sky.

"I said to the Chief Engineer that I thought we were going to have a pretty tough storm. He replied, 'Well, either there has been an awful bad one or we're going to get it.'

"It blew very hard all Tuesday and on Wednesday morning there was a tremendous gale and a big sea got up. Toward nightfall we began to ship heavy seas, and the barge especially got a terrible drubbing.

"The storm increased in fury during the night, and at six o'clock on Thursday morning it was something terrible. All of us knew we were in great danger.

"At 6:30 the mainsail went by the board. All hands went to work to rig up another sail abaft the smokestack, and this stayed for awhile. Several of the crew now wanted the Captain to put into Sandy Hook Bay, but he refused to do so. About seven o'clock I was raking up one of the fires, when a frightful sea struck us and smashed in the engine house.

"I heard the Chief sing out, 'Oh, my God, we're done for now!' The room was filled with steam and I groped my way up on deck.

"Another fireman, Eli Jeffries, whom we called 'Pop', was thrown back into the fireroom and badly hurt, but he scrambled on deck. As the boat was becoming unmanageable, we set to work to unbend our fore staysail, and tried to nail it over the broken side of the engine house so that we might keep them going. The wind, however, kept tearing the sail into ribbons.

"Then the captain determined to cut loose from the barge, and we headed more out to sea, thinking if we kept her head to the sea the tug might ride out the gale.

"After we had all climbed into the rigging the seas kept coming mountain high, sweeping clean over the boat. It took the men off the rigging like flies. The mate and myself were way up in the mainmast rigging, he to leeward and I to windward.

"We saw every other man aboard go over. In the last batch, taken off by

an awful sea, were four: two of the seamen, the chief engineer and the lamp trimmer. The captain had long since been carried away.

"This left the mate and myself the only living souls aboard. He said to me: 'Cummings my lad, keep cool, it's our turn next. Perhaps we'll get to shore, but we've got to take chances. Keep cool my boy.'

"A huge roller broke over us and took him off just then. The waves fell on me again and again as if there were a hundred ropes pulling at every limb in my body. My wrist, as I hung with one hand only, was terribly strained.

"I knew I couldn't hold on much longer, and when the next sea smashed over us, I had to let go. The next thing I knew, when I shook myself in the water, the mate was close by me, swimming. We were about twenty fathoms away from the tug and when we were lifted on the top of each wave we could see her mainmast, and even notice her settling. The mate sung out: 'We'll make it all right', as near as I could understand him, and then he was carried out of sight.

"I saw Billy Daly and the little mess boy. They were swimming with planks across their chests. I then got hold of the top of the pilot house, which had been washed away, and floated on this for a long time. It suddenly turned over, and I remember no more till I came to ashore in the hands of my kind friends here."

And so goes the saga of the unfortunate ocean tug Panther.

From a fishing perspective, the Panther is renowned for its bountiful blackfishing, and has been a longtime favorite among the Shinnecock Inlet clique. Since she's so far to the east, the Panther is not as heavily fished as some of the more famous western wrecks like the Iberia, Black Warrior, Lizzie D, Gulf Trade, etc., that are closer to a greater number of inlets from both the Jersey side and Long Island's western south shore. This reduced fishing pressure allows the sea bass to grow large and plentiful. Newsday's Nick Karas wrote a column last year on a trip he and his crew made to the Panther and he went on to describe how they caught over three dozen black bass up to 4 lbs. in only a few hours. He inferred that the fish seemed to bite better at certain stages of the tide, but such "local knowledge" is gleaned only after paying your dues on the wreck, so give it a shot and see what you can do. According to Karas, the north/south range "lines up the beach's water tower with the white house with the gray roof and three chimneys."

You can also expect to find an occasional blackfish and hake while groundfishing on the Panther, as well as encountering schools of marauding bluefish.

Next week, we're going to take a trip down to the Jersey shore to investigate the 1935 collision and sinking of steamship S.S. Mohawk.

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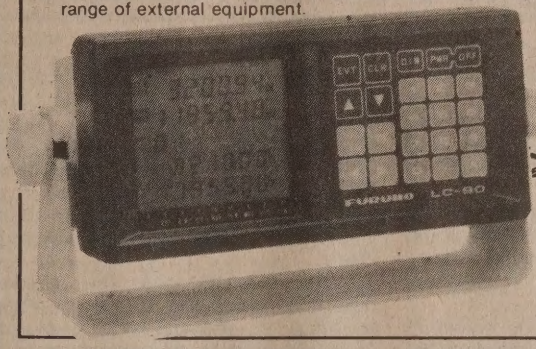

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THE ISLANDER AND THE GIANT

by Tim Coleman

"Here was the fish the oldtimers, like the gent in the dark Plymouth station wagon, told stories around."

Will it happen this way or has it already happened?

He was an islander, a small, quiet man who drove around in a second-hand, beat-up Bronco painted with dull, black primer. Like many others who lived in small houses in that place of natural beauty, he was good with his hands. What some tourist could not fix, he could. For a miserly sum he bought his beach transport, then put it in running shape.

He and Joe cruised many nights in a machine that couldn't be spotted easily once the lights were out against the scrub brush on roads the tourists had yet to find. By night's end, the inside of the back of the truck, finished in plywood, usually had a fish or three; sometimes a load while others went fishless. One night comes to mind at this point: it was screaming from the southwest, the water white wherever headlights went. People at the point picked a few despite horrendous bows in the lines that made hooking almost impossible. A morning's check of the ferry dock and its bass shipments revealed the visiting pros hadn't made much of a dent. However, over coffee, the man explained how they landed 13 but nothing big; the spread went from 19 to a touch shy of 40. Some mainlanders wouldn't see that many bass in a whole year.

What you wouldn't see the next evening was neither the man nor his friend nor the black Bronco. They never went the same way to nights running for others would be checking their progress. Some visitors, not wired into the pipeline, were none the wiser; but those with a good ear to the ground tried to piece the puzzle in place. But, the next night the wind swung to the northwest, so one of the man's many secrets were safe until southwest conditions.

Over the years, as word of the island's bass spread, the distance between rods grew tighter. Huge beach machines, some with tires alone worth more than a lot of the islanders' cars, crowded out the most accessible spots. The undercurrent at the breakfast houses hummed with wonderment at where they all came from? Some sadly recognized the flow would get worse, not better.

I remember him saying how ten years prior they were afraid to fish a certain beach for fear of a flat and no one around to give them a lift home. Today that same point overlooking those black rocks is crowded from dusk to dawn when the bass swim by. There's no room for people who live there.

What rubbed him the hardest wasn't so much the overall numbers as much as the percentage of bad guys who always come with numbers. Those were people who'd elbow in, talk loud and tough, not caring much for the island nor its ways nor common courtesy. Their whole philosophy seemd to be take, take, take, never giving much in return.

This wasn't the first time he related that a horde of anglers descended on his homeland. He thought back when he was a child when people would come for pollock as well as the linesides. It's happened before, he said and will run the same course. This latest batch will fade out, but will come back sometime down the road. Such was the way of things out there.

During times he wasn't working or fishing he'd hunt pheasant or help tend his father's lobster trawls, always quietly watching the how and why of animals, fish and lately, fishermen. He would, at times, explain to a lucky few where to find bass without crowds. At still other times, he used his wits to catch a pile of fish no one ever heard about unless you had a post office box on the island. One of the man's tips on quiet locations helped a tourist land what may have been the heaviest surf bass last year along the Eastern Seaboard.

But, this isn't a story about a lucky tourist; it's a tale of what happened a couple December nights a couple seasons back. Then the island hadn't yet reached capabity but was certainly heading in that direction. Another three years would pass before saturation. That fall the big fish came late. By the time the ones over 50 were at hand most tourists had gone home to watch Christmas commercials. A few people knew the giants would show as they've done for their fathers and before that. Someone once said the heaviest bass alive swim by twice a year, once in the spring and again later on. Those fish were—at times—in the first curl, all you had to do was hang on long enough.

If a student of fishing magazines were to check into a fishing annual no longer published by a huge company headquartered in the Big Apple, he or she could read about a gentlemen fisherman in the latter 1800s who beached an 86 pounder from those shores. The main thrust of the story was documentation of the catch that generally went unnoticed. Even in these times of intense angler scrutiny I suspect some things still go unnoticed on the small, quiet man's island.

It was cold those December nights, so much so you had to fish with a spinner because you had to wear gloves. Just at dark the cod, little ones, attacked the seven inch swimmers, perhaps thinking they were but one more abundant whiting. After darkness settled in, the lumbering shapes fattening for the trip south cruised the inshore stones to feed as they'd done for as many as 25 fishing years.

During one of those cold, dark nights the quiet man beached as many 50 pounders as some people catch in 40 years hard casting. Before it got too cold, he topped the night with one in the mid-60s. The same student who checked on the fishing annual may or may not tell you the really big fish in a school may or may not show up later in the night after the "smaller," quicker members of her group satisfied their hunger. Then maybe at 1AM, maybe at 3AM, she'd hit and likely win yet another battle against 3/0 treble hooks; another log in the fire of question mark runaways. If that generality held true that December night, one might wonder what size fish waited beyond midnight. The man didn't find out as his face and hands didn't want any more of the cold wind. Besides, he'd landed more trophy fish in a couple of hours than most active casters get in a lifetime!

His season was not over, though the next couple nights were impossible because of the blasting north-

westers. Winter was closing its grip on the island. Water temperatures were plummeting to the point where even the largest bass would be compelled to leave the abundant feed. On Thursday, the stiff northwest changed around to 10 to 15 from the south. While it was not balmy, the evening chill wouldn't dip as bad as before.

One of his headlights was out as the machine worked its way down the rutted dirt road. Just after two large pillars, remnants of still another time on the island, he slowed to take stones and washouts from a Thanksgiving northeaster. Down and around curves he went, up a small rise, then onto a grass plot overlooking the cold, dark sea. There were no lights on the beach. There were no lights to the south, out on the water. He was alone except for an incident to tickle your imagination. Did this happen?

He worked his way down the small bluff to water just turning to ebb. He spotted some eels on the beach which likely meant the whiting would be around, which likely meant he'd get one more chance. Fishing the small pocket in the lee of the breeze he caught a 49 pounder on the fifth cast. It took awhile to get the hooks out but that wasn't too bad as it gave him a chance to get out of the wind. Even a 15 MPH southwest breeze on December 14th can be deadly raw.

For 25 minutes by his watch, he cast into seemingly empty surf. Once he put the rod down to rub his hands in the lee of a large rock where he put his first bass. If it doesn't pick up, he though, I'm calling it in. Everyone else had packed it in, even Charlie, even John the Lobsterman. He might be the last man fishing for bass along a New England beach.

Thinking about his fish he surmised it might be the last count for the season. Perhaps he'd go back to the buggy but with the heater not working so well, that possibility was discounted. Flexing his shoulder he sent his plug out into sport fishing history. Before he could really come tight, the line was off and moving. The fish cleared as much line as a high 40 or 50 pounder would on its first rush. Stopping for a count of four, long enough to shake its massive head, the giant took off again, swimming like the hammers of hell since one point of the treble had her clear through the left side of her jaw hinge. The old bass was in trouble.

By the time she stopped to take stock of the situation she'd separated herself from point of contact by half the spoon on a Penn 704. If anything, the man eased off a bit on the drag knob. Here was the fish the old-timers, like the old gent in the dark Plymouth station wagon, told stories around.

At first he couldn't budge her an inch. She just stayed put, not moving much at all. For a disastrous instant he thought she had him rocked up but more pressure on the rod was greeted with a welcome lunge. Then and only then did she start coming his way. This is either the bass of my life, he thought or I've got one foul hooked. He remembered the season before when John beached a 52 pounder hooked in the dorsal fin. He also thought about other fishermen, some sharp guys who, along this very beach lost a fight with fish over 60 pounds.

The next part was fairly easy. Steady pumps on the rod brought the bass closer and closer. Taking note of the large boulder awash just to his left, he moved down the beach about 150 feet to the center of the bowl between the two rocky points. Here he would land his prize.

As the time got closer the fish turned and went again. In this cold water they fight damn hard, he thought to himself. This dash though was shorter, barely enough to qualify as the run of a spirited 20 pounder. The end was near.

Some folks might expect something to happen, perhaps a line to give way, hook hangers to pull free or hooks reduced to weird, misshapen pieces of metal. That didn't happen. The small quiet man stayed calm and slid a bass over 58 inches up on the black sand. Grabbing her in the gills he struggled with the massive weight to drag her up behind the rock he'd hid so many of his fish. There he inspected what he told few people about.

Not only was the fish long, but chunky, with huge head and mouth that could take a Rebel crosswise without hitting skin on either side. The hooks on the front of the plug were mangled; ditto for the back, save for the one point which got in some deep. It held even though it was bent at a very disturbing angle. How in the hell did I stick you like that, he thought, remembering the events of the first strike? How indeed?

I once asked him about record fish from his shores. His reply was he'd rather not see it, nor talk about it for it would just bring more people of the type he wouldn't call friend.

Events have a bad, sometimes uncomfortable way of working out in a world beyond the pages of fish books. The quiet man and his wife left the island, hoping to put things in order. He moved to the West Coast, seeking that better portion of life we all strive for.

I lost touch with him over the next two seasons though remembered him during the fall when his tips often put me into fish. To other fishermen who were kind enough to take me into their confidences, I returned the favor by telling them some of the things he told me. Some things he told me in confidence will remain a mystery.

Things come full circle in this life. The man is back now, though not to live on the island. That's over with he said, he may help his father pull pots, but he's working in a mainland shipyard, keeping a low profile as always. While he may not reside there any more I suspect when the bass weather is right, he'll visit the rocky shores that served him well.

GW
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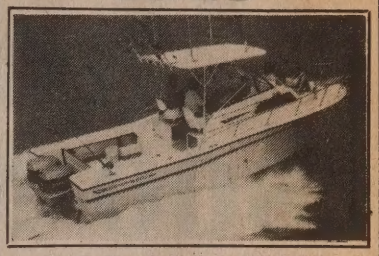

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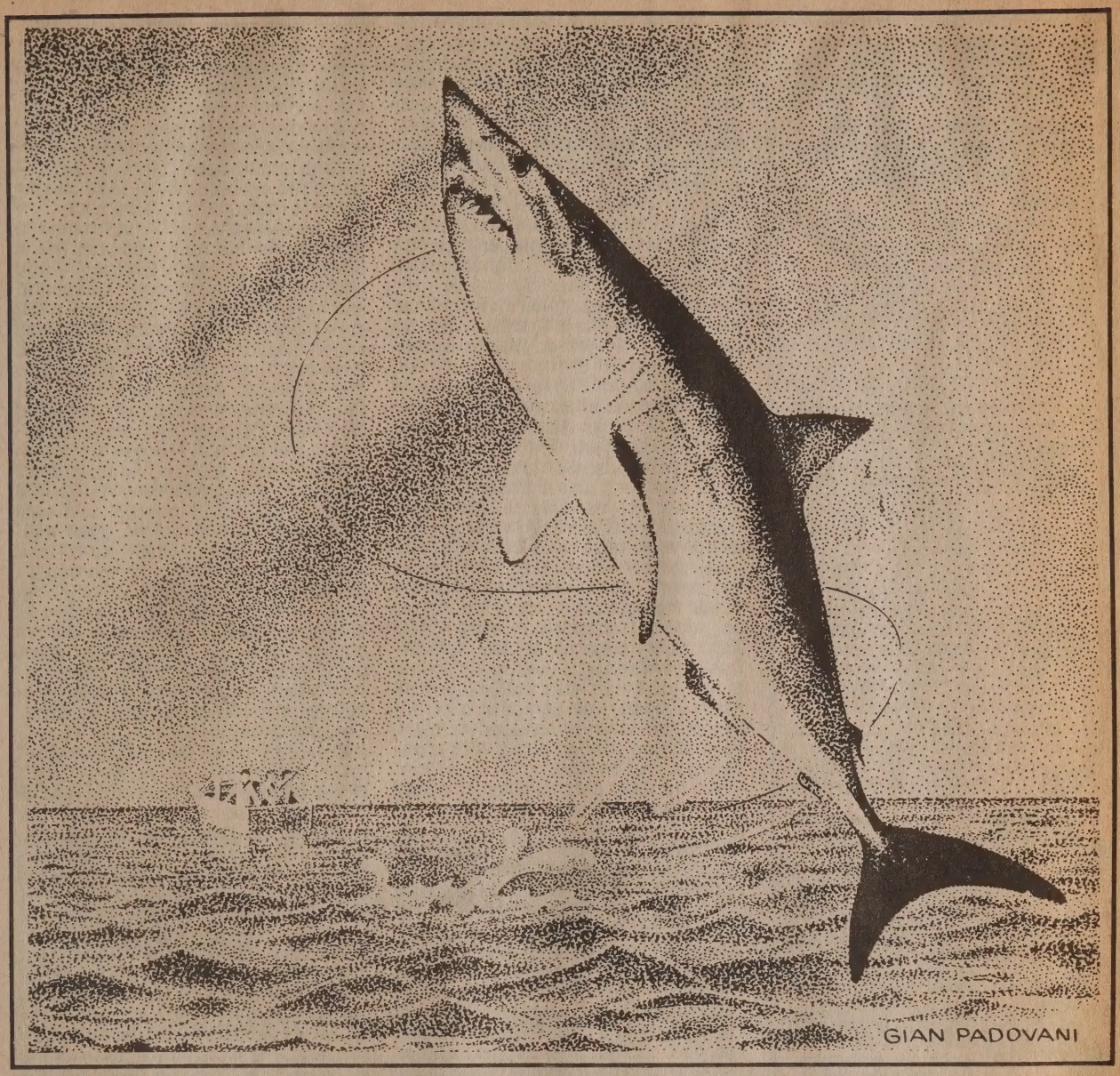

TALE OF A MAKO

by Gian Padovani

"Reel, reel, get that line in!" I commanded. "I am," he yelled back, "...what the hell is wrong with this thing anyway!" and as he answered his face was flushed with anger and excitement. I thought the drag was slipping, but a fast check told me the facts: the gears had been stripped.

When a few days before I had called up my brother to ask if he wanted to go shark fishing, I had lured him to come along by changing the word shark to mako. Somehow I knew that the glamour associated with this sportiest of the sharks, had influenced his decision to the affirmative. I felt a little guilty, as I knew that isolating one species of fish from all the others that swam in the sea, was more a question of luck than one of choice. Just a month before, my fiend tommy had telephoned me, announcing that he had finally purchased a BIG boat, large enough to go offshore. Tommy had finally decided to "dump" his old, delapidated 16 footer in exchange for a craft capable of going out of the inlet after the "big ones." His salary hardly warranted such an expense, but in the exuberance of youth and in "partnership" with a friend, Dave, he had managed to shop for the right buy.

And so that Sunday morning found the four of us at the marina, getting the "Sea Turtle" ready for its venture out to sea. The 20 foot lapstrake had obviously seen more years than I dared ask, and as I casually gave a visual inspection, it become apparent that in the present state it was a craft better suited for clamming or, at best, to fish in the safety of the bay. I took a look at the equipment and aside from a compass (which I doubted had been compensated), a CB radio and the basic safety requirements, it had nothing worthwhile associated with offshore cruising. The fishing tackle

(Continued on next page.)

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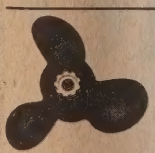

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was of the most spartan quality; the outriggers were homemade, the fighting chair was a lawn chair and the rod holders, those plastic affairs screwed onto the transom, were appropriate only for trolling bluefish or stripers. When Tommy noticed my incredulous look, he picked up a screwdriver and, without effort, sank it up to the handle into the superstructure of the boat. "Dry rot," he smiled "but don't worry, the hull is as solid as a tank!" When my equally flabbergasted brother Gil inquired as to the reliability of the engine, Dave chimed in with "Runs like a charm . . . tuned it up myself." I was seriously considering backing out of the trip, but I felt that without my little experience in navigation and offshore fishing, I was inviting disaster. At any rate, it was too late to back out. The strong, sweet smell of fresh bunker told me that the chum had been stored aboard already and I was assured that several frozen mackerel were stocked in the ice box along with butterfish and the ubiquitous beer. What classified me as the expert, was the fact that I was the oldest member aboard and had fished on several occasions for big game fish, as a guest of several friends' boat. I HAD caught tuna, dolphin and a marlin. I had also participated in various shark tournaments and our group had always managed to catch several blue sharks, along with a few duskies and browns.

As the boat left the slip, I hoped that whatever I had learned at the Coast Guard Auxiliary's course was still stored in the back of my brain and would be accessible when and if needed. On a hunch, I had brought along my own 50 lb. outfit. To my astonishment I found that there was a chart board and we hurriedly plotted a course, to be checked with both compass and finder. We would run a 150 degree course out of the fire Isand Inlet, until the 100 foot depth was reached. With the single engine running smoothly and with everyone aboard full of enthusiasm and anticipation, the boat left the slip toward the ocean. I felt apprehensive but, once we reached the inlet, I felt relieved to see the water as smooth as glass. The Sea Turtle wasn't exactly a speed demon and when the transducer finally flashed the 95 foot depth, I stopped the engine; we rigged up and began to chum. We had set out three lines, adjusted for different depths and with nothing else to do, I began watching the particles of ground bunker as they sank and drifted toward the east. It was Gil's first venture with sharks, and I hoped the chum would attract at least the reliable blue sharks. But an hour or so later, we still had nothing to show for our efforts.

"Will anything take our bait?" I wondered and as the water lapped gently and soothingly against the side of the boat, envisioned several sharks following the scent of the bunker and following it to the bait. I also imagined a mako, with its streamlined body, swimming swiftly toward our boat. No fisherman I know goes out fishing specifically for mako and expects to get them. Like the swordfish and marlin that share the ocean with them, this swiftest of the sharks is elusive and has earned a reputation as a premiere game fish. I remembered the exciting day when I caught my first mako, a few years back.

It happened when I had joined a friend to fish for tuna. His boat was a brand new 31 foot Bertram, fully equipped with the latest in navigation and big game tackle, and he had a full knowledge of everything that was stored aboard. We had been trolling since the first warm rays of the sun had lit up the eastern sky, but as of now, 50 miles or so out of Montauk, we hadn't got a hit, let alone a fish. When the sun had reached its zenith in the midday position, we decided to stop and have some lunch. We ate our sandwiches, adrift on the calmness and peacefullness of the open sea. Lunch over and on the spur of the moment, we decided to jig the bottom and see if we could attract anything with diamond jigs. The water was very deep but in no time at all we brought up a few large squid, which we promptly stored in the live well. And then I hooked a ling. I thought of tossing it overboard but as an afterthough, I removed the jig and I impaled the lively fish on the hook of my line and let it swim away. As I payed out line I could feel little taps as the ling tried to free itself but suddenly the line began to run out, gaining more speed and power. As I threw the clutch of the reel into gear and struck back, my rod came alive with the feel of a large fish and we thought of the possibility of a tuna. When the fish eventually surfaced, the beautiful blue color on the aerodynamic shape with its ugly mouth, confirmed that it was a mako. My friend was a veteran big game fisherman and it took us only a few exciting moments to tail rope and hoist the fihs on the gin pole. The shark had saved the day, an unexpected prize, when we had gone fishing for other game and seemed to find none.

A slight wind had picked up and the sun was already halfway around its swing. When I checked on my watch, I realized that we had been chumming for several hours and wondered how far the Sea Turtle had drifted in a sea that had become choppy. The guys were cooling it with a few beers and took turns with the ladle, adding length to the chum slick which must have been a couple of miles long. As yet only a few terns seemed to have benefitted from the effort, picking up the bits of fish that hadn't sunk. It seemed like a waste of time and money and I considered moving to a different area, but I felt hungry and reached for my lunch. I removed a hard-boiled egg and as I was about to crack its shell, the balloon holding the mid-depth line popped, followed by the screech of the click on the reel.

(Continued on next page.)

"Fish on," I cried, reaching for the throbbing rod. I let the fish swim for some interminable seconds, then I let him have it! The bend on the rod confirmed that this was no small fish. I was aware that the boat lacked a fighting chair and somewhat relieved that I had brought along my fighting belt. I told my brother to remove it from around my waist and strap it around his. Once this feat was accomplished, I gave him the rod and told him to bring the fish in. He sank the rod on the gimbal of the fighting belt...where I had stored my hard boiled egg! It brought out a nervous laugh from everyone. I think that the fish wasn't sure what had happened up to that moment, because it suddenly bolted into high gear, literally spinning my brother around to pin him against the gunwale of the transom. With some difficulty he straightened himself out and holding the rod high, managed to slow the fish to a stop. This was definitely not a blue shark and from the strain on the rod, I was sure it had to be a tuna. I could sense that my brother had taken enough punishment already; his inexperience was showing and his arms were aching. I was afraid the fish would make another run, taking along all the remaining line, and this was when I commanded my brother to reel. Once I realized that the reel was finished, I decided to gamble. I was thankful to see that Tommy had brought in the other lines and asked for my own rod and reel. The fish was sulking and this rest gave me the opportunity to tie the line onto the one from the reel of my outfit. I cut the line free from the damaged reel, hoping that my split second knot would hold. Just as I began taking in some line, the fish took off again back towards, and past the boat. This time, however, the drag on my reel was merciless and the fish came slowly to a halt. I began pumping the rod and eventually felt the fish coming to the surface. It was a shark! The fish was a least seven feet long and its girth spelled at least 200 pounds! Once the fish saw the boat, it bolted again and this time I thought I had lost it. Disappointed, I began reeling in the slack line, when it dawned on me that what could have happened, was happening: the shark jumped and if ever there was a doubt about its identity, it was quickly dispelled. It was a mako and it shot up straight into the air, stiff as a board, its glistening teeth, sharply delineated against the blue sky. This display practically transformed the flesh of my legs into rubber! The shark had jumped only a short distance from the boat and to this day, I still shudder at the thought of what could have happened, had it landed inside the Sea Turtle!

The mako sounded again, but I could feel its power weakening. So was my strength for that matter, and that jump had really shaken me up. The guys were still in a state of shock when my yell startled them. "Get the gaff and the tail rope ready." I wish I hadn't asked. The gaff was a one-handed affair, tied with rope on an aluminum pole. The tail rope was just a hunk of rope. I continued playing the fish until, seemingly exhausted, it surfaced and stayed there. Inch by inch I led it closer to the boat, screaming instructions: "Do not try gaffing the fish; use the gaff to lift the tail and then slip in the rope." Tommy assured me one end of the rope was fastened to a chuck (I prayed the wood wasn't dry-rotted). Somehow, in the excitement that prevailed, the directions I gave got mixed up. They SANK the gaff on the caudal peduncle and the mako went wild. It was like a case of firecrackers going off. Gil and Dave held onto the gaff, while Tommy held on to the steel leader. The melee only lasted a few seconds; the gaff's hook straightened out, while the handle pinned Tommy against the side of the boat. Once the tail was free, all it took was a flip to snap off the twisted leader. The fish was gone! For a long time the only sound to be heard was the lapping of the water against the Sea Turtle and our heavy breathing. "What a fish!" someone said. Too bad. We started the engine and as we headed back home I heard a strange sound emanating from the hatch covering the motor. It didn't last long though, because it stopped running. But that's another story.

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SUMMER ON THE WESTERN SOUND

by Ted Keatley

If you discount the fact that flounder fishing was better for quality than quantity and the poor mackerel results, 1986 is shaping up as an excellent year in western Long Island Sound. Blackfishing has been good, striped bass are plentiful and porgies arrived early. However, the big story is the largest and earliest run of bluefish that I ever can recall. Schools were between Bridgeport and Norwalk before the middle of May. A week later, they had moved westward to Hempstead Harbor and Mamaroneck.

Umbrella rigs are my weapon of desperation. I use them when all else fails. I much prefer to take my blues on bait or a single lure. There is no getting around the fact that the umbrella is deadly. However, I fish for sport rather than meat and like to keep hardware to a minimum.

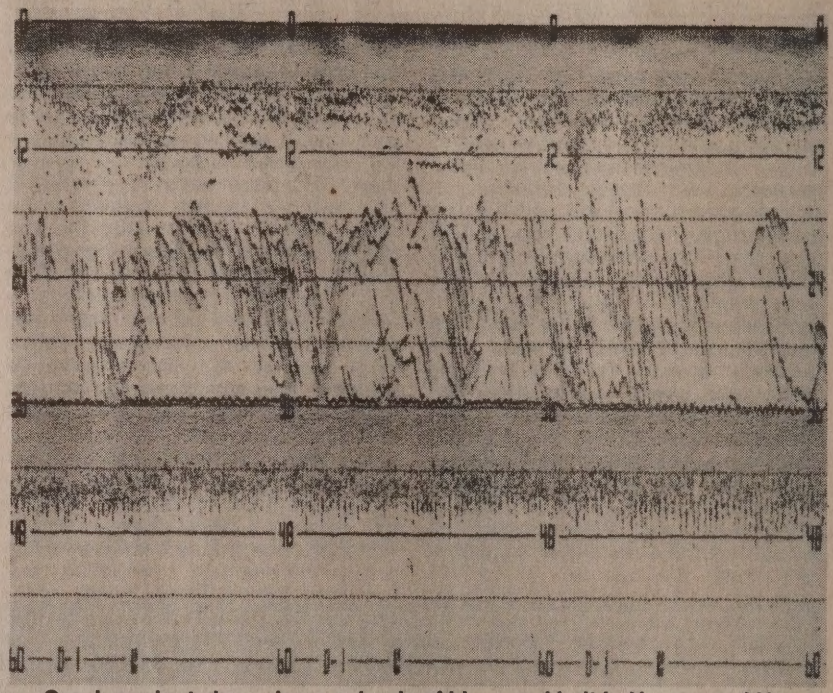
I have mentioned Don Campbell's Periwinkle jig in several previous columns. This is the lure which I have been using.

Although I would prefer monofilament, I run wire when fishing deeper water because it puts the lure down further. As a result, I normally take bigger fish and have a better chance of finding a few weakfish. The small blues may be better eating, but the big choppers are more fun to battle. Since I do not eat fish, I will opt for the greater sport. Later in the season when the alligator blues are in the harbors, I troll with mono.

The first Sunday in June was typical of early run results. Since I knew that there were large schools of blues just west of buoy 21, I headed for Hempstead Harbor in spite of the fact that fog necessitated a compass course most of the way from my dock in Stamford.

Initially, I found myself well up in the harbor with small bluefish surfacing all around me. Action was fast, but I wanted bigger fish and worked further out into the Sound. Before long, I had a continuous reading on my recorder and the fish seemed to be standing in line waiting to be caught. More importantly, these were larger fish in the 5 to 10 lb. range.

I had put out two lines initially, but soon concluded that this was a prelude to a Chinese fire drill. I finally hit upon a system. I would bring a fish into the boat and immediately let out the other line. By the time that I had unhooked the fish and put it in the cooler, I would have one on the second outfit. Actually, many fish hit just as I finished letting out the wire and reached back to put the rod in the holder. That fluttering moment of slack seemed to be the ultimate temptation. An indication of the fast action is the fact that it took me 45 minutes from first bite to finish a sandwich. By 11AM, I could no longer close the lid on an 86 quart cooler and had filled all of the five gallon buckets on the boat by shoving blues into them head first. At that point, I couldn't figure what to do for an encore, so I headed home.



Graph readout shows large schools of blues and bait in Hempstead Harbor on June 1, 1986.

At first, I was fishing pretty much alone, but before long I was surrounded by a fleet which included several party boats. Interestingly, although the other boats were taking fish, no one else seemed to equal my continuous action. I couldn't troll more than a hundred yards without hooking up. My boat speed, lure and depth seemed to be exactly what the bluefish wanted that day. The other boats were trolling (usually with umbrellas), casting, jigging and fishing cut bait.

I can't tell you why I was so successful, but I will tell you what I was doing.

First of all, I was holding to areas which provided good readings on my chart recorder. I maintained a rough bearing using a buoy and the shore barely visible through the fog. Once you find fish, staying with them is critical. When you have action, use anything possible as a bearing to keep you over the school. A week before, Mike Pataky and I had taken 20 odd blues circling two lobster pot buoys off Manursing Island. If it had not been for the buoys, there is no way that we could have held over that school of fish on a fast moon tide.

In Hempstead Harbor, I was fishing about 35 feet of water and using a Periwinkle on 150 feet of wire. I also had a piece of striper size tail hook pork rind on the single 8/0 Pacific Bass hook. A good percentage of the smaller fish were caught on the trailer. It is amazing how much abuse from bluefish teeth a piece of pig skin will take. The pork rind was pretty battered at the end, but the bluefish were unable to chop it off.

I normally troll a dead stick because the arrangement of my boat makes it awkward for a left-hander to jig. However, there is no doubt that jigging will bring more hits. My previous comment about the strikes

during the momentary dropback as I put the rod in the holder is indicative of this.

It seems virtually mandatory to jig some lures including the Acetta Rag Mop and lead heads such as the Upperman and the Smilin' Bill. However, a dead stick usually works just about as well with the Periwinkle and trolled plugs.

I imagine that I will be pretty well through with open water bluefish trolling by the time that this issue reaches readers. If the large mossbunker schools which began arriving in late April stay with us, the big alligators should be running them through the harbors.

From July Fourth on, most of my fishing is inshore trolling with monofilament or livelining bunkers. Bunker dunkin' really fascinates me because you see the strike in most instances.

Last year, I had to do most of my summer bluefishing in Greenwich or Norwalk because the bunkers avoided the Stamford area except for here one day, gone tomorrow appearances until after Labor Day. If the menhaden schools which moved into Stamford Harbor and Westcott Cove stay throughout the summer, they will save me a lot of time, gasoline and aggravation.

Of course, bunker dunkin' complicates life since you must go "fishing" for mossbunker before you can go fishing for blues. The best way to take live bunker is to snag them with a weighted treble hook (size 7/0 to 9/0). they are plankton feeders and do not take lures or bait.

Often, the biggest problem is finding a school of bunker. Immediately after daylight usually is the best time since they tend to surface and flip on top at that unseemly hour.

Locating them in choppy water is virtually impossible unless you can pick up a school on the depth recorder. I often have gotten my bait solely because they showed on the chart paper. There was absolutely no sign of them on the surface. In Stamford Harbor, the schools frequently lie on the bottom along the dropoff at the edge of the channel during the day and there is no way that you will find them unless you are running a recorder.

If you find a school on top, the boat should be eased up to them slowly and quietly. If they are frightened and bluefish or bass are not below them pushing them up, the school will sound and disappear.

Cast the weighted treble to the far side of the school and allow it to sink—longer and deeper than you may think necessary. Some fishermen make a practice of counting to six before they begin reeling. Begin retrieving slowly. If you are passing through the school, you can feel the bunkers bumping against the line.

As soon as you feel the fish, bring the rod up sharply. If you miss, allow the treble to sink and begin retrieving as before. Bunkers have large tough scales. Thus, a stiff rod and sharp hooks are necessary to snatch successfully.

After you have snagged your bunker, the biggest difficulty is keeping them alive unless you plan to chunk bait. They have a heavy oxygen requirement and are more fragile than most fish used for live bait. Fish hooked through the brain or bleeding badly should be put aside for cut bait or chum since they will die quickly.

I put my bunker in a 24 gallon plastic trash barrel tied alongside the boat. The barrel has about twenty-five 1½ inch diameter holes to provide circulation and a plastic collar to support it. I also have a 32 gallon barrel in the boat hooked up to a through-hull circulating pump. A hose attached about six inches below the rim of the barrel serves as an overboard drain when the pump is running. This permits me to transport the bunkers a considerable distance with minimal mortality. Once I reach my destination, the pump is turned off and the smaller goes over the side again.

Livelining bunker is a lot of work, but there is no better way of bringing alligator blues to gaff. Live bunkers will outfish chunks two or three to one quite consistently if there are big blues in the area. Of course, if you are in a school of small bluefish, you will wind up frustrated as they eat the bunker an inch at a time and rarely get hooked.

Early June brought a lot of interesting reports on both fluke and weakfish. Fluke to 7 lbs. and weakfish in the 15 lb. range were taken. Perhaps I will give them a try. Each season, I intend to go fluking, but always get sidetracked by bluefish and never get around to it.

Since they prefer a sandy bottom, fluke fishing is better on the Long Island shore. However, there was some good action around Cockenoe Island off Norwalk last summer and Greenwich sometimes produces, particularly in the vicinity of Wee Captains Island. Actually, fluke are taken on occasion along most of the Fairfield County shore line although I doubt that they are sufficiently plentiful in many areas to justify fishing for them. Last summer, I was bluefishing outside the Stamford Cows and hooked a fluke of about five pounds on a mackerel chunk. Just as I got it to the surface, a bluefish wrapped Mike Pataky's line around the propeller. In the ensuing confusion, I tried to lift it into the boat because I couldn't reach the net. Oh well, it will be a lot bigger if I hook it again this year.

There were some excellent flurries of weakfish last year in such places as Cockenoe Island, the Greenwich Hen and Chicks and the mouth of the Nissequogue River in Smithtown Bay. These were big tiderunners for most part, but action was nothing like the period which ended about four years ago when a trip to the reef inside buoy 15 at Lloyds Neck around dawn or dusk was a virtual guarantee of "sea trout" in the boat.

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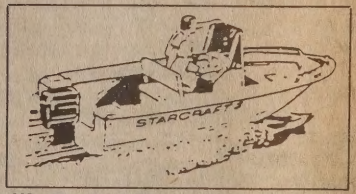

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MONTAUK CAPTS. *SHARK* JUL 12-13, CAPT.
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SOUTH SHORE *MARLIN-TUNA* JULY 19
BOB G., 81 PERCY WILLIAMS, ISLIP, N.Y. 11750.

STATE CHANNEL MARINA *SHARK* JULY 19
43 CAPTREE ISLAND, BABYLON, N.Y. 11702.

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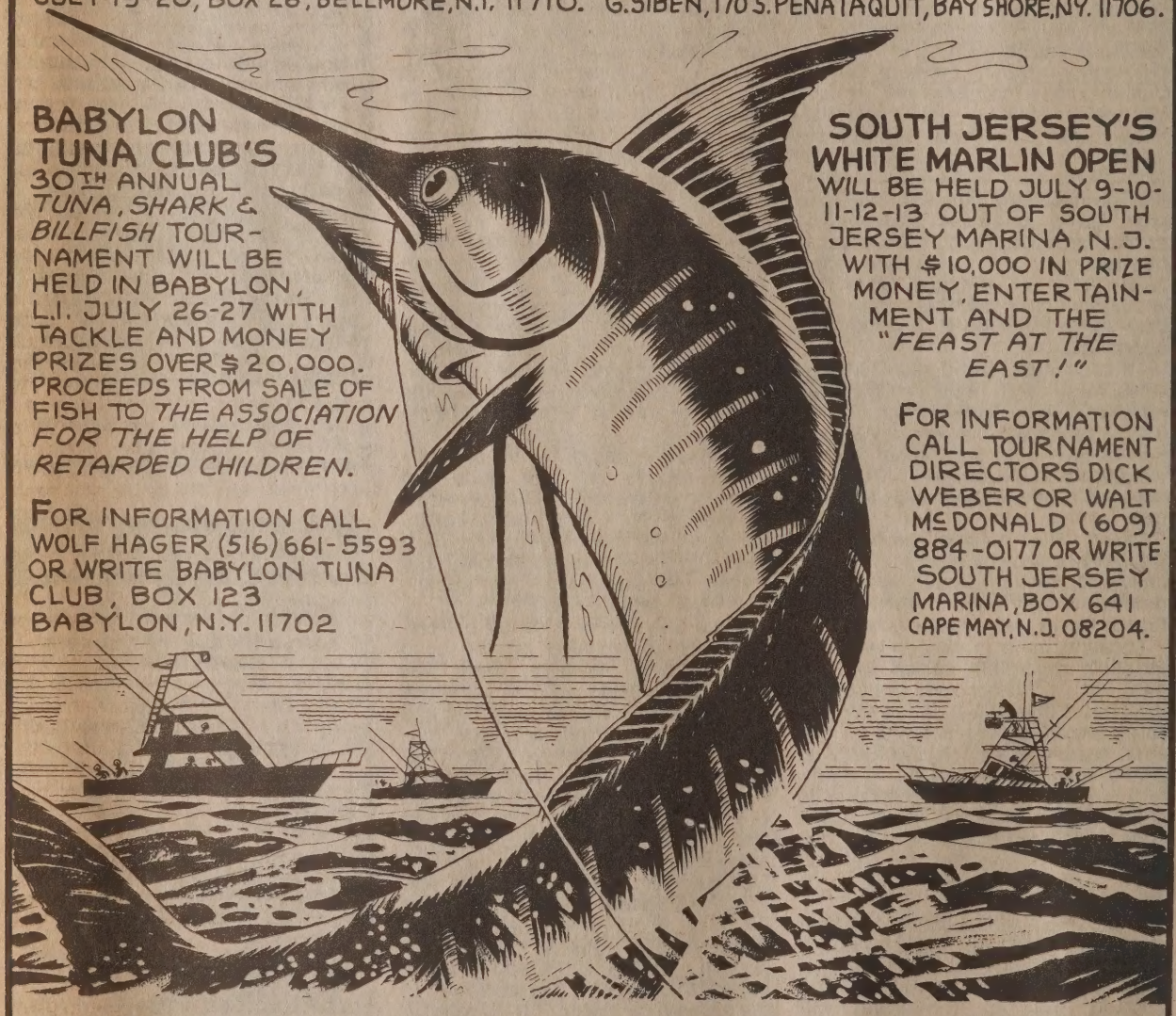

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CAPE MAY *MARLIN* JULY 24-27, DEPT. OF
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MARGATE *BLUEFISH*, JULY 19, MS GWEN
HAGAMAN, SMITHVILLE INN, SMITHVILLE, NJ 08201.

BEACH HAVEN *WHITE MARLIN* JUL 31-AUG 3
B'HAVEN M&T, BOX 216, B'HAVEN, N.J. 08008.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD *MARLIN* JUL. 16-19
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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

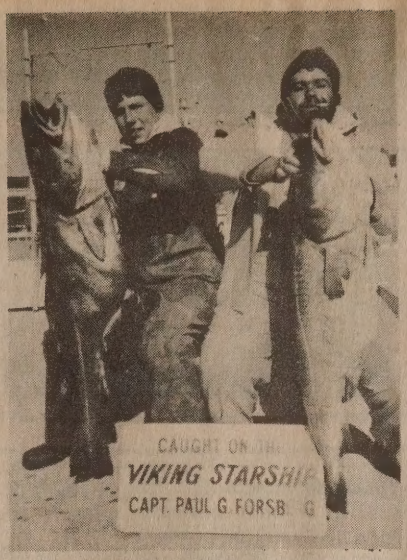
Porgy catches improved dramatically in east end waters including Montauk and Eastern Long Island Sound, on the weekend. Giant tuna to 700 pounds were weighed at Montauk. The offshore scene appears to be alive with shark, tuna, and bluefish with cod becoming more numerous at Cox's Ledge. The first doormat fluke were caught in Montauk waters on the weekend and good catches of quality flounder appeared in Shinnecock Bay.

MONTAUK

Captain Ron Grandinetti started porgy fishing this past weekend on the **Julie III**. Saturday's trip with Peter the "Greek" and his party returned with 70 porgies and an assortment of sea bass, flounder and blackfish. The porgies came in full force by Sunday, when Dominick Felieu and his group hooked up with 211 porgies, top weight 3½ lbs., along with flounder, blackfish and sea bass. Captain Ron reported catching fish both days at the Elbow and the South Side.

Richard Berk, speaking for the **Montauk Marine Basin**, reported the results of the weekend's shark tag tournament: first place fish was caught by Pat Vicario on Saturday, a mako of 332 lbs. which took the $12,000 purse for largest mako, plus $8,000 for largest shark caught. The shark was caught on the "Nora John" with John Lennens and Captain Peter Fagen, all of Mahopoc, NY. The largest blue sharks, 255 lbs., was woth $5,000 and was caught on the "Kep One" by Craig Taylor, with Captain Joe Coone. Youngster Kyle Cooney caught a 55 lb. yellowfin tuna during the trip. A dusky shark weighing 474 lbs. was caught by Joe Mistone of Moriches on the "Misty II" but unfortunately missed the weigh-in deadline by 45 minutes. Sixty boats holding over 300 anglers fished the tournament. A giant tuna tournament is scheduled for the weekend of July 19th and 20th, with a total purse of $25,000. Call the Marine Basin at 668-5900 for information. About a dozen giant tuna were weighed in during the past week, ranging in size from about 400 t to 700 pounds!

Captain Donnie Bradick os the charter boat **Fish On** has caught six giant tuna so far this season, three during the past week. Thursday's tuna, weighing 548 lbs., was caught by a Mr. Dempsey. On Saturday, with Larry Sherman of Las Vegas on the rod, a 300 lb. mako had to be cut off to successfully fight a 589 tuna. Sunday's fish, with angler Chris Shaw weighed 640 back at the dock.



A May trip aboard the "Viking Starship" produced cod of 46 lbs. for Patrick Gillen (left), and 47 lbs. for Sammy Beauchamp. Action took place during a "Valley of the Giants" trip.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** called in a variety of fishing reports: Fluking has started in local Montauk waters at the North Rips and Can 5 with lots of action. Loads of bluefish were caught on the first night trips to Block Island, with most fish 8 lbs. and up. Cox's Ledge is producing two to six cod per angler, with pool fish usually in the 40 lb. range. This past weekend's George's Banks trip, the last of the spring season, was an outstanding success. Most anglers caught well over 100 fish each! Pool cod, a 50 lb. fish, was caught by Ronnie Madonia of Staten Island, second place went to Jim Daunoras with a 48 lb. cod. One wolffish was among the catch. The **Starship** will be docked at Staten Island July 3rd and 4th for the Tall Ship review, the unveiling of the Statue, and Friday's fireworks. A few tickets are available. Call the **Viking** office, (516) 668-5700 for reservations.

Henry Uihlein reported an increase in fluke catches made by anglers on boats from **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** which were fishing at the North Bar, Shagwong, or Culloden Point. Robert Caenera and his friend Bill Meyers of Dix Hills, combined fluke with bluefish, catching ten keeper fluke and a couple of blues in a two hour fishing trip. Best fluke action was on the outgoing tide, with squid/spearing used as bait. On Monday, fluke to four and a half pounds were caught on the marina based boat "Mario" with Maryanne fishing the Point. Lake Montauk is a good bet for flounder on windy days.

Captain Dusty Dorzbacher experienced very good porgy action on the **Little Bear** over the weekend. Twenty to thirty porgies apiece were put into the buckets of happy anglers, while fishing the east side of Gardiner's Island. The fish reportedly were in the medium and large size class.

On Thursday, aboard the **Flying Cloud**, John Anthony, a musician from East Meadow, who can usually be found on Georges Banks cod trips, tried his hand on porgies. John caught seventy-one porgies plus a couple of blackfish, sea bass and a fluke, putting all to shame!

Captain Richie Rade reported pretty good porgy action, with some fish reaching three pounds in weight, on the **Marlin IV**. Captain Rade is fishing Montauk and Gardiner's daily. Anglers who work at it can easily catch thirty-five to fourty porgies, along with some sea bass and blackfish. Beginning this week, the **Marlin IV** will also fish nightly for bluefish, sailing at 7 pm.

Fluke have finally entered the Montauk scene, as reported by the "Duke of Fluke", Captain Charlie Nappi. On Sunday, on the "Fiddler", with musician Percy Heath, Charlie Murphy, and Captain Nappi, large fluke were located in local Montauk waters. The trio boated eleven big fluke, all over five pounds and the largest weighing thirteen and a half pounds at West Lake Lodge. It was caught by Charlie Murphy. The fish, which will be mounted, leads Captain Nappi's Annual Fluke tournament, since it was caught on a Captain Nappi fluke rig.

Captain Nappi will appear with Lorry Mangan this Friday on WLIG-TV, channel 55 at 7:30 pm to demonstrate how to use big baits for big fluke. Watc L.I. Fishing weekly!

Captain Howard, of the charter boat, **Reel Magic** was entered in the two day shark tag tournament sponsored by the **Montauk Marine Basin**. Chartered by Danny Zottoli of Tuckahoe, New York and his friends Frank, Mark and Joe, a few blue sharks plus a brown shark were hooked up on Saturday. Sunday's action involved very large blue sharks, including one male blue shark weighing 183 pounds which was previously tagged. However, the group did return with a nice mako of 305 pounds which took second place in the tournament.

Captain Mike Bentevegna, Jr. reported on combination shark/giant tuna trips the past weekend, with Bernie Heffner tagging and releasing four blue sharks in the eighty to one hundred pound range on Saturday, and L. Nova and his friends from Connecticut catching a 175 pound blue shark on Sunday on the charter boat **Pronto**. Although giant tuna were sought, none were caught. The previous weekend also resulted in plenty of action with blue sharks with Ed Muenkel of East Northport on Saturday, and Michael Tulmenello of West Orange, New Jersey on Sunday.

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Captain Bob Storc reported a good catch of bluefish and of porgies to two pounds with the Camastro brothers on Friday. Sunday's porgy trip with Fred and Phil Weaver located several bushels of porgies, top weight two and a half pounds.

Tom Jordan of **Gone Fishing Marina** reported an upswing in fluke action at Shagwong, Gin Beach, and North Rips. One ramp customer fished under the light for very large flounder and a lot of small blackfish. Porgies have come into the area, and are very good at the Pocketbook and also on hte south side near Ditch Plains. Santos Catalbianco and his son Mark filled a cooler with jumbo porgies at the Pocketbook on Sunday some of the scup weighing three to four pounds. Weakfish have come into the Montauk area, but have not been consistent yet. A huge school of weaks appeared on the surface on Saturday between Shagwong and Gin Beach, providing plenty of action for boaters armed with Kastmasters with a bucktail. Small blues are all over.

Captain Billy Stevens, fishing with Rickie Torre and his son on Thursday, took two and a half hours to land a very large mako shark. The fish took a small herring and was fought on 130 tackle. It weighed 510 pounds on the scale at **Gone Fishing Marina**. After the mako was secured to the 25 foot "Buddy", a 194 pound Thresher was hooked and gaffed in a half hour. Captain Bob Rochetta and his mate Sal Russo, brought in a 200 pound bluefin tuna on Thursday aboard **Rainbow II**. Stu Rosen joined Captain Rochetta on Tuesday night for a bass trip. The pair caught, took pictures of, and released several trophy sized stripers, while Stu remarked "I guess photographs on the wall will have to do!"

Captain Phil Lewis reported that the charter boat **Adios** fished sharks all last week, finding slow fishing the beginning of the week, with an increase in action the latter part of the week. On Thursday, eleven year old Scott Hines brought in three blue sharks by himself, all in the 150 to 200 pound range.

A mako of 240 pounds was caught by Foti Varsom and Jim LoPresti on Friday. On Saturday's trip, a large thresher was hooked but broke off when it's tail cut the line. Sunday, Captain Lewis traveled to the second finger, where plenty of action was had all day, with all blue sharks over 180 pounds, in addition to a few brown sharks.

SOUTH FORK

Chris Salb at **Bayview Marine and Tackle** reported an upswing in porgy catches over the weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, rental skiffs returned with over fourty-five porgies each, fishing the Cedar Point Bouy 6 area. Mr. E. Lakkas filled a bucket on Sunday. Fluking at the Ruins showed

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less shorts than the previous week. Sag Harbor resident Karen Whiting returned with four nice keepers fishing Sunday on the "C.O. Jones". Blues have been trolled on umbrella rigs at Gardiner's, while blackfish are holding up around Orient Point.

Captain Artie Lach reported last Tuesday and Wednesday's fluking slow because of strong northwest winds. However, on Thursday, a fluke charter caught fourty, the largest about five pounds at Gardiner's on the **Wilhelric II**. There are still plenty of shorts in the area. Porgy action has dramatically improved over the past couple of weeks. Saturday's efforts resulted in fifteen to twenty-five porgies per angler, while on Sunday, most fishermen had full buckets of scup, along with sea bass and blackfish. Captain Lach asked us to inform you that all tickets are sold for Sunday July 6th on the **Wilhelric II**.

Thom of **Speck's Bait and Tackle** heard of excellent flounder catches west of the Ponquogue Bridge, buoy 20 near the dredge, with fish to nearly 3 lbs. in weight, and catches of a couple of dozen average. Blues and blacks have slowed at the Shinnecock jetties. Best bet on fluking is incoming tide around the Inlet. Porgies came into the picture at Montauk on the weekend wtih very good catches. Lots of short fluke at the Ruins at Gardiner's, but porgies holding up well on the east side of Gardiners, with eastern Plains Point a good spot.

Captain Don Van DeWater cashed in on hot flounder action in Shinnecock Bay on Sunday with Joe Anderson and his brother on the **Dutch Treat**. Fishing near the Dredge west of the Ponquogue Bridge, the group caught four dozen flounder, all near two pounds in weight!

The winners of the **Three Aces Fishing Center's** Shark Tournament

Tom McGuire with sons Doug and Tom, put together this fine catch of flounder in Moriches Bay in mid-June. The trior fished out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in East Moriches.

were all caught on Thursday and were all makos. First place was a 352 mako caught on the "Let Luce"; second was caught by "Cowboy',, fishing on the "Sandra Jean" and weighed 271 lbs. The "Horizon II" took third place, with a mako of 203 lbs. The charter boat, **M&Ms** hooked up with four yellowfin tuna on Thursday, trolling in 190 feet of water out of Shinnecock. Two were landed. While lots of short fluke are in the bay, a few keepers are around, about 3 for each 10 caught. Try incoming water in the East Channel or inlet.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Fluke fishing continued to show improvement in Great South Bay while flounder fishing continued its excellent pace in Moriches. Blue-fishing remains steady with lots of blues from the inlets on out to the shark grounds. Speaking of sharks, the largest mako to come through Fire Island Inlet in recent memory was taken on Saturday during the Bay Shore Tuna Club's Mako Tournament. Very rough seas hampered the off-shore fishing on the weekend but some bright spots did appear. Among them was an outstanding catch of tuna made at the Dip Friday into Saturday.

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MORICHES BAY & INLET

Bob Santiago at **Las Brisas Fishing Station** in **Moriches Bay** said that flounder fishing remains very good in the vicinity of buoy 29 with many of the fish falling into the 1-2 pound range. Most average 1¼ pounds. Saturday's flatfish action was off which Bob attributed to Friday night's strong winds which churned the bay. By Sunday however the fishing was back in form. Use worms and mussel chum for best results. Of the fluking, still lots of shorts with some customers reporting only 1 out of 10 fish being a keeper. Best action has been near buoy 32.

Capt. Ron Schleuter of the **Alma Fleet** reported flounder fishing holding up very well for fish in the 1-2 pound range. They have been fishing between buoys 29 and 32. On Thurs-day, Violet Gallo took the pool with a 2.8 pound flounder while Rosie "The Phantom" Fedorco took the fluke pool. A reminder that the Alma will not be sailing its evening trip on the 4th of July. Ron called the fluke fishing spotty due to the many shorts but felt there has been some improve-ment inthe number of keepers over the past week.

A couple of impressive sharks found their way through Moriches In-let this week. On Wednesday, Greg Townsend and Harvey Edwards ran to 155' of water SE of the inlet where they found a 540 pound thresher. Same day, Bob Scherpich and his crew aboard the Lady Carol II put away makos of 224 and 234 pounds. They fished SE in 190' of water in 61.3 degree water temperature.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

The word from **J & J Tackle** in **Pat-chogue** revealed improved fluking in Great South Bay particularly between Ocean Beach and Kismet. One cus-tomer returned from Ocean Beach on Saturday with 5 nice size fish. The first reports of summer run weakfish reached the shop this week. Several weaks from 2-4 pounds were reported taken on squid strips off West Sayville. Those still looking to get their share of flounder should look to Moriches Bay. On Sunday, Eric and Steve Wilkinson, along with 4-year-old Audrey, put away 30 flatties including a hefty 3.8 pounder. John Wildman and Barry Bernstein returned with 10 big blues to 14 pounds taken while chumming 10 miles south of Mori-ches Inlet. Good crabbing from the local docks and small fluke with an occasional keeper being taken. The first schools of baby snappers arrived in the area this week as well.

Over at **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** Al Colban reported a lot of fluke being taken in the Bay between Ocean Bay Park and the R.M. Bridge. A number of boatmen found more keepers than shorts by working the channel edges between Ocean Beach and Kismet. Still some flounder being taken in the Sore Thumb Pocket and at the Coast Guard Station, but Moriches Bay is a better bet if you are looking for the winter flatties. Some decent crabbing now underway at the docks in West Sayville and Great River. Offshore fishing was hampered

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over the weekend by a rough ocean and a very rough inlet.

Improved fluking with some particularly good action on the last half of the incoming tide according to Jim Romano of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip**. Several customers reported taking a fair number of keepers this week. Among them were Steve Affelt and his wife who returned on Wednesday with 11 keepers taken in West Channel. They used spearing and squid and killie and squid combos. Cocktail blues remain abundant in the inlet with bigger fish out in 60-70 feet of water. The fish are being jigged inside and out with white tubes especially effective. No weakfish reports at all this week. A few flounder reported taken by one customer at the Robert Moses Pier and crabs being taken from the local docks in traps.

Carl Miller at **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore** reported a decent weekend with the fluke on the flood tide. He named Dickerson Channel and South Beach from Kismet to the Lighthouse as being productive. A definite improvement in the ratio of shorts to keepers was noted by most customers this week. Very good bluefishing being found in 80' of water south of Cherry Grove and Ocean Beach with most of the fish falling into the 6-8 pound class. Most boatmen are jigging the fish while a few continue to troll them on wire and umbrellas. Offshore, some bigeyes taken near the Dip during the week. Lowrance rep Craig Guyana reported taking bigeyes of 140 and 170 pounds at the Dip during the week. Lots of bluefin tuna reported on the surface south of Moriches in 160-170 feet of water but most suffered from closed-mouth syndrome. One local boat reported dropping a giant tuna while sharking in 160 feet of water SE of Fire Island on Saturday. Freddy Thompkins put a 133 pound mako aboard the Bali despite rough seas on Sunday. Crabs along with a few blowfish being taken from the Bay Shore docks.

Archie Rhodes, the Tournament Chairman for the Bay Shore Tuna Club's Annual Mako Tournament reported on the outcome of this long popular event. Despite Saturday's delayed start due to an impassable inlet, the event was still a success with enough big sharks taken to settle all of the prizes. Competing anglers had to contend with 8 to 10 foot seas and very difficult fishing conditions but still returned to the docks with 16 weighable sharks of which 9 were makos. The largest, as alluded to earlier was the biggest mako ever taken in the tournament and likely returned through Fire Island Inlet. It weighed 727 pounds and was taken by William Lane aboard the "Canyon Stallion". A 218 pound mako finished a distant second. It was taken by Ed Wills, Jr. aboard the Wild Turkey on Sunday. Third place went to Paul Pellagrino for a 211 pound mako taken aboard the Skimmer. In the

open shark division, a 465 pound thresher taken by Joseph Boyle earned top spot. Glen Tooker finished second with a 358 dusky and John Azzato took third with a 238 pound thresher. In the club standings, Irish Anglers finished first, Fire Island Anglers finished second and the Babylon Tuna Club nailed down the third spot. The Bay Shore Tuna Club boat Outrage returned to the weigh-in on Sunday three minutes after the deadline with a 251 pound mako and a 300 pound thresher. Also worth noting was a 78 pound tuna taken aboard the Reel Tough.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Laura Lee** spoke of very good fluking over the past 10 days with 100-200 keepers a trip being taken. Two regulars, John and Bernice, walked off during a weekday trip with 18 keepers. On Thursday, Jack Gleason totaled 30 fluke of which 15 were keepers. Louis Vitale culled 8 keepers out of his total catch of 28 fluke. Neil was also encouraged by a noted improvement in the water clarity. He and a number of other skippers reported a decrease in the algae which had developed in parts of the bay. Most spoke of very clean water conditions throughout the week.

Noel Kappauf was kept busy at his **Captree Bait and Tackle** weighing up fluke for the weekend's Captree Fluke Derby which was sponsored by The Fisherman. A total of 393 anglers competed for the top 10 places. Charles Vella of Floral Park disappointed many of those anglers by finding fluke of 9.4 and 4.14 pounds to walk off with both first and second place prize money which totaled $750. Robert Haas and Harriet Madorme finished in a third place tie with fluke of 3.9 pounds each. Norman Loeber fished aboard the open boat **Capt. Rod** on Sunday. He was not entered in the derby but should have been. He would be $250 richer today thanks to the 7.2 pound doormat he landed. In general, Noel thought there has been a considerable improvement in the fluking but the number of shorts to keepers still varies depending upon the area and the tides being fished. Some boats continue to report more shorts than keepers but others have been finding bigger fish along the channel edges particularly near Kismet and West Island. One competing boat returned with 8 keepers and told of having to return only 2 shorts. Plenty of small blues still at the inlet with 6-8 pound fish being found off the beach in 60' of water. A few bonito also taken among the bluefish this week.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the open boat **Miss Captree** reported a continual improvement in the fluking with a better keeper ratio and a number of fish in the 3-4 pound class mixed in. Carl reported his best action along the edge of Farm Shoals and working the edges of the drains near Kismet. The last half of the flood tide continues to be the most productive. The Miss Captree's evening trips continue to be very productive with loads of blues being taken at the inlet when conditions permit. The inlet was wild on Saturday which kept the boat out of the fish but most trips see average catches of 10 to 15 blues per man with some individuals doing much better. A reminder that the boat will be sailing its regular schedule through the July 4th weekend.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** spoke of very good bluefishing both days and nights with most of the fish falling into the 4-8 pound range. Most trips see a few 10 to 12 pound choppers mixed in. A couple of good to very good fluke trips this past week with a great improvement in the keeper ratio and several fish in the 3-4 pound class taken as well. Several trips saw catches of up to 10 keepers per man. Flood tide is the key to the fishing. Some areas continue to produce a lot of shorts so the keeper ratio can vary from to 10 to 90 percent depending on the tide and area. George also noted that the bay was considerably cleaner this week with good clear water throughout the fishing areas.

Over at **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Tom Healy reported plenty of small blues up to 3 pounds at the mouth of the inlet. Five to eight pounders from the Whistle Buoy out to 50 feet of water south to the water tower on umbrella rigs and wire or jigs. Further off the beach in 100 feet of water to the SE there are blues to 12 pounds. Of the fluking, Tom thought the best action was being found at the flats along the channel edges between West Island and Sexton Island. Best action is on the last half of incoming tide when the water is cleanest. Spinner blades have become popular among fluke fans for periods of the tide when the algae is a factor. Flounder continue to be picked at the Sore Thumb and there are crabs being taken from local docks in traps. No snappers as of yet. Offshore, the Compass Rose area has been loaded with tuna. Schools of fish have been cavorting on the surface but most have been tough to catch. Many seem to be in the 60-80 pound class. Artie Orlandi trolled a 33

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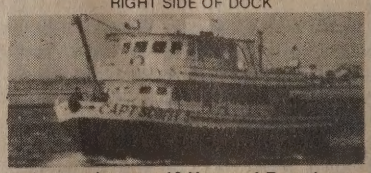

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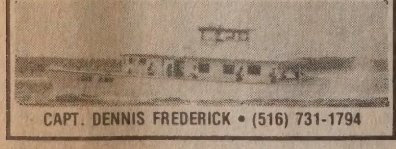

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pound bluefin on a Bob Schneider Cavitator. The season's most impressive tuna catch was credited to Richie Koch and his crew aboard the Libra. They fished the area of the Dip during an overnight trip on Friday and returned with 33 yellowfins and longfins and 7 bigeyes to 150 pounds. All the fish were trolled on artificials.

Capt. Ralph Green of the open boat **Miss Babylon** also told of improved fluking this week. He was especially pleased with the improved keeper ratio. He has found the State Channel good on the Ebb tide with the last half of the flood best at the R.M. Bridge. Joe Lang put away 9 keepers to 3½ pounds on Friday's trip. An occasional sea bass has been mixed with the fluke. Ralph also noted that the bay water was especially clean this past week.

Some pretty good fluking in the vicinity of Ocean Beach this week with some anglers returning with a dozen keepers. This from Mike Andreani at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**. Flounder fishing remains very good at the Wantagh and Meadowbrook bridges. Those who go heavy on the chum have been doing exceptionally well. Lots of schoolie bass up to 12 pounds along the banks of the State Channel for those looking for some catch and release action. Sea bass continue to be abundant on the Fire Island Ocean Reef and there are plenty of blues outside the inlet from Cherry Grove east. Most are 5-6 pounders and are being jigged as well as trolled on umbrellas. Offshore, lots of yellowfin tuna in the 50-60 pound class being reported in 150-160' of water SE of Fire Island. Lots are being seen but few are being caught. Tom

Bohnenberger had an estimated 350 pound blue marlin rise to a green machine near the Texas Tower on Thursday. The big blue did not stay however.

Chester Shew at **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** reported a 125 pound mako for Charlie Buono aboard the Misty on Saturday. It was taken in 180 feet of water SE of Fire Island Inlet. Steve Sisson helped Danny McCarthy put a 130 pound mako aboard Steve's "The Dreamer". Inside the bay flounder fishing remains good at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges and some decent fluke are being taken from the vicinity of the Copiague Hole.

Pat Grasso connected with a 300-plus pound mako aboard the B.C.A. charter boat Cindy Ann on Wednesday according to Scotty Smythe of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor**. Fluking was very good in the State Channel this week between the Babylon and Amityville Cuts. A number of customers reported catches of a dozen keepers with a sprinkling of 3-4 pound fish mixed in. Most have been caught on sandeels. The Reel Affair worked the State Channel at Gilgo on Sunday and kept 7 keepers out of 20 fish caught. Flounder fishing remains solid at the third Wantagh Bridge with some flatties still being taken at the Sore Thumb Pocket as well. Small blues are at the inlet mornings and evenings with bigger fish from 5 to 8 pounds in 50 to 80 feet of water south of the R.M. Tower.

Frank Pristera of **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale** found more shorts than keepers by a 5 to 1 margin during his

Four-year-old Jason Kolin and his "first fish ever," a flounder caught in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Scene of the conquest was aboard the private boat, 'Pipe Dream.' Photo courtesy of Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle.

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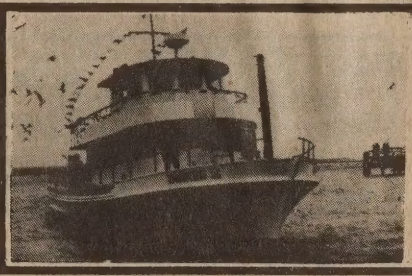

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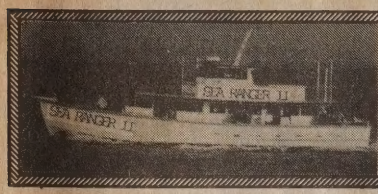

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fluking on the weekend. He worked from the Sore Thumb to the Bridge. Blues being trolled and jigged in 60 to 80 feet of water SE of the inlet. Rich Ferri put 30 blues to 14 pounds into the cockpit of his Rum N Coke on Sunday. He fished 80' of water to the SE and took the fish on chum and jigs. Offshore action was severely limited this weekend due to a very rough ocean.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

This has been a good solid week of fishing both offshore and on the inside, with a relatively stable weather pattern hanging around. The keeper fluke are now a lot larger as are the flounder which are being picked in the deeper holes, while there are tons and tons of blues just about all over the place up alligator size far off the beach and also to the west. Weakfish are showing as are blue claw crabs and snappers with the water warming, while offshore mako and blue shark along with various tunas are in evidence.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

Out of Seaford, Captain Frank Signorelli of the Seaford based charter boat **3 Sea-Sons** advises the s shark fishing is in full swing with catches of mako and thresher shark on each trip. Friday's trip for Ken Bixby and party from Connecticut had 2 makos of 100 and 139 lbs. There have been daily sightings of tuna on the shark grounds and Frank expects a banner tuna and marlin season. See ad for additional info.

At **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** we learn from the boss man that the fluking has been good despite the huge numbers of throwbacks around. Hotspots have been Goose Creek, Sloop Channel, Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and Jones Inlet. A few weakfish at the 3rd Wantagh and Big M on sand worms fished three feet off the bottom at night. Flounder in the deeps at the 3rd Wantagh and the Big M and also off the CG Station. Big blues in Fl Inlet, at Cholera and the Patchogue grounds. The sharking slowed this week due to high winds. Blues off the west end jetty at Jones Beach on tins.

We hear from **Capt. Eddy's Fishing Station** of some keeper fluke and abundant midgets all through Great Island Channel. Blue claw crabs are

being taken in scoop nets off the town dock. There are some flounder being caught at the 3rd Wantagh and all around the Jones Beach piers.

The word from Mike at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** is that there are tons of fluke with about a 10 percent keeper ratio to the tune of 2 to 15 keepers a boat, best areas being Neds Creek, Mud Creek, Oliver's Cut and the flats on the east side of Great Island channel and of course, the drains into Sloop. Keepers have been up to 4 lbs. with sand eels and spearing best. Mike said to keep in mind that big baits equal big fish. Usually. Flounder action has been fair with the Big M area best all around the high on bloods with a bonus sprinkling of sea bass. Great blue-fishing on the inside right through Friday with fish to 4 lbs. on small tins with red or white tubes. This was from 6 PM to dark. On Tuesday Joe Tattoo and Mike Luckadoma boated 55 flounder to 1½ lbs. fishing Haunts Creek with bloods and lots of chum. Good sea bassing on offshore wrecks in 90 to 105 ft. of water. A few small makos between the HA and the Yankee Wreck. Mackerel was the hook bait, when you could get through the blues. Small snappers at Seamans Neck Park and blue claws in Fire Island Inlet at Cedar Beach Bar.

Over at **Merrick Tackle** in Bellmore good catches of fat flounder have been the best item this week just off the CG station. Tiny snappers are being hooked and landed in the back. Some keeper fluke being picked between the abundant midgets just about all over the place.

Moving over to the **Freeport Fleet**, we hear from the charter boat **Cod-father** of Tuesday's trip for Vince Tulino and 4 pals bagging 38 keeper fluke, fishing off the Rockaways with a 50 percent keeper ratio. Two of the fish went over 5 lbs. with the day's catch running from 1½ to 6 lbs. on squid/spearing combos. Sunday's trip for 4 anglers saw 95 blues jigged SE of Jones running 2 to 4 lbs., in anywhere from 40 to 90 feet of water.

On the **Capt. Andy II** this week, fares picked away at the flounder to the tune of 10 to 12 a man with all these fish being nice and plump. Andy asked us to mention that he's running his special Fourth of July Liberty cruise full day and says call for any info you need.

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **starstream II** tells of excellent blue-fishing on all the weekday trips, with nights being almost as good. Fish running 2 to 7 lbs. working west of 17 Fathoms. Cholera has seen the best night action on bait and chum. The skipper said the fishing is good and consistent.

A call from Capt. Mike Miller of the charter boat **Apus III** told of lots of blue shark around and moving their way east, running 100 to 125 lbs. Offshore yellowfin tuna and mako shark have been cruising the Virginia Wreck area. On Sunday's charter, Joe brought to the boat a 500 plus lb.

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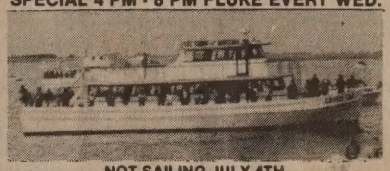

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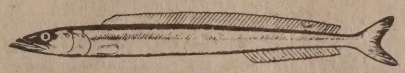

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mako (est.). As fate would have it, the hook pulled at the boat. To Joe's credit, he fought it standing up with 30 lb. tackle. At least three wahoo were in the shark slick in 72 degrees of water. Mike classified bluefishing as super with tons of fish in the area.

Aboard the **Lady J fleet** this week, trips were split between bay fluking and offshore bluefishing. Fluke fell to sand eels, squid and spearing with lots of throwbacks and mixed keepers to 4 lbs. The blues ran 2 to 4 lbs. on diamonds just 1 to 1½ hours from the inlet. The groups fished this week the Richard Lahay group, La Branche & Co., Maspeth Fed. Savings, Bank, Garofalo Elect., Archer Services Inc., Ogden Foods, Atlantic Container Lines and Jim McGrath party.

A call from the **Bluefin Fleet** said it had fluke to 4 lbs. this week and flounder to 1½ lbs. locally for Elisa Corra. Max Williams was high hook on the Robert Abraham trip. Jamie McKenna, Tom O'Grady, Alex Kohl and Kevin Daily fishing on the Garden City Boy Scouts trip had very good catches of flounder and sea bass. On the Drakes trip, Fred Ott and Don Wallace pulled fluke to 4 lbs. Wednesday in the AM and blues in the PM up to 23 per man. Paul Mueller and Pete Nelson had good fluking Tuesday with fish to 3 lbs. The weekend fluking slowed. Sunday's trip for the High Hook FC had Walt Hanasco with a 4 lb. sea bass. They had about 150 porgie, sea bass and blacks on a local wreck. The skipper called the weekend's night bluefishing very good on bait and chum with high hook in the 20s.

We learn from Capt. Dennis of the charter boat **Corsair** about Wednesday's bluefish trip for the Bernard Fleischer Associates working Seabright and loading up on diamond jigs, fish to 4 lbs. They wrapped up the day with fluke off Riis Park on squid with some nice keepers. Saturday's trip for the Walt Kavanagh group of Swan Lake, NY fluked in Reynolds and off Long Beach using spearing and squid and despite lots of midgets, boated fluke to 2½ lbs. Sunday's trip for the men's club of the Valley Stream Jewish Center fluked from the Big M to the Long Beach Bridge and into Reynolds taking keepers to 3¾ lbs. on squid-killie combos, with Bill Halper taking the pool.

We learn from the **Freeport Boatmens Association** of the great bluefishing with larger fish to the west at Ambrose and also south of Cholera. Association boats fluking this week had great action with lots of midgets but a decent number of keepers from 3 to 7 lbs. fishing the inlet and Reynolds. Offshore there is very good shark action. Catches of bluefin tuna and yellowfin tuna at the Texas Tower area with 20 to 30 lb. bluefin tuna NNE of the HA. Fifteen to 18 lb. alligator blues out there too. The **Super Spray II** has been enjoying plenty of the fluke activity and is now starting, in addition, their night bluefishing. See ad for details.

In nearby Pt. Lookout, aboard the **Capt. Al**, the skipper says the bluefishing has been just great, that if you can't catch blues now, you'd better take up golf. It's that good. The boat has been getting over 1,000 bluefish per trip. Jigs are accounting for the day fish, while bait and chum is the ticket at night. On Sunday, Mike and Maryann Bantls of Astoria had 65. Frank Mistretta of Astoria had 30. James Ingrassellino of Astoria had 30. J. Levine had 37 and an 8 lb. pool fish. Some weaks were also taken during the week with fishing just 1½ hours from the dock. Night trips have been between Cholera and 17 Fathoms. The crowds at night have been very light on the boat said Al and there's plenty of elbow room. An example is Wednesday night's trip for just 4 fares, taking 125 choppers. Catches are averaging in the high 30s per man with some catches going into the 60s and 70s.

Scotty's Fishing Station tells of excellent fluking over the weekend in Reynolds on killies, sand eels and spearing. Barbara Jones, Center Valley PA hoisted a 6 lb. fluke. On July 20th, prizes in the Charlie Nappi fluke tournament that was held at Scotty's Fishing Station will be awarded. Nice catches of flounder continue at markers 17 and 19 in Reynolds and off the CG STation at Short Beach.

A call from Capt. Walt of the **Miss Point Lookout** said that the flounder fishing continues to be good and that the night bluefishing trips have been very strong. Sunday night, Rusdely Tirado and Edward J. Sandkyhl, of Queens Village had 50 blues between them. Frank Nagaltsch of Rosedale bagged an 18 lb. pool chopper. Wednesday night had Mike Hoffman with 33, fishing running 3 to 8 lbs., Tom Sunlis of Elmont bagged an 8 lb. pool winner. Lisa Sparacio and her boyfriend had 40 blues. Catches have been very good from Cholera to 17 Fathoms. Please note the boat will be sailing the 8AM trip only July 3rd. Statue of Liberty trips are being run in the afternoon of JUly 3rd and all day July 4th. The regular sailing schedule resumes again July 5th. The boat still has a few tickets left for these special trips.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III** this week, Monday's charter had excellent bluefishing in Jones Inlet and off Seabright with Bob Sterng takin the pool with a 6 lber. Mike Hoefenkrieg and Rich Layden, accounted for 85 blues 2 to 5 lbs. Tuesday's fluke trip for U.S. Customs enjoyed a good pick of keepers fishing off Playland and then worked Debs Inlet. They totaled about 400 fish with roughly a 50 percent keeper ratio. Sunday's trip for the Great Neck Post Office had great fluking action in Reynolds and west of Island Park with over 500 total fish caught and a 20 percent keeper ratio including a 4 lb. pool winner.

From **Ed's Fishing Station** we learn of the 7½ lb. fluke caught about 30 feet from the station's dock by Evelyn Vargas of the Bronx on Friday on a squid sand eel combo. A 7 lb. 4 oz. weakfish was also caught on a sand eel squid combo just west of the Loop bridge by Susan Rosenberg of Bellmore on the boat Play Pen. Many decent 3 to 4 lb. blackfish being taken on fiddlers at the Big M at the top of incoming. Lots of fluke with many throwbacks. The keeper ratio seems to be improving said Ed with fish being larger also. Fat flounder at the Short Beach CG Station and in Sloop between the Big M and the CG Station.

Out of Island Park, Capt. Clem's **Commodore** experienced hot and cold fluke days this past week, capitalizing on the good drifts off local beaches when the wind was blowing in the right direction. Clem worked the bay Thursday and Friday getting decent keeper catches of 6 to 8 a man and of course, lots of throwbacks. The weekend was fair with an acceptable number of keepers mostly in the back bays. The boat will be sailing a regular fishing schedule July 4th an all through the weekend the boat will fish.

Bernie at **Long Beach Boat Rentals** noted that the fluking has been consistent in Reynolds with a 25 percent keeper ratio and best areas being buoys 9 and 3. Dennis Wagner and dad on Sunday managed 36 keepers to 4 lbs. on live killies. Small blues throughout Reynolds on tins and on fluke rigs with the really large blues at the ABB on bunker. A few blue claw crabs in the back bays and blues on umbrellas ranging 2 to 5 lbs.

Word from **Beckmann's Tacle** in Lynbrook is that Charlie Vella of Floral Park on Saturday bagged 2 really nice fluke in Jones Inlet, fish weighing 9 lbs. 11 oz. and 5 lbs. 4 oz. taken at the end of the big jetty on incoming water. Bait was live bergalls. Of course, they also had lots of throwbacks. Bill Weiss of Valley Stream was pretty happy with hig 10¼ lb. weakfish which he took in Jones Inlet on mackerel chunks. He also had a 10 lber. earlier in the week.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Jack at **Fishing Unlimited** located at **Cross Bay Marine** in Howard Beach told of a tough week. However, he said some decent fluke were caught in the Mill Basin and Barren Island area. Chunking at night is producing bluefish in the 14 lb. class in the bay from the airport to the marine parkway bridge. Fishing Unlimited's giant fluke contest is coming up very shortly. Call them for details.

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** says that both the north and south channel bridges, fluke and blues are the menu items. Bluefish are being taken on diamond jigs and bunker chunks days and strictly bunker at night. Fluke are falling to killies or

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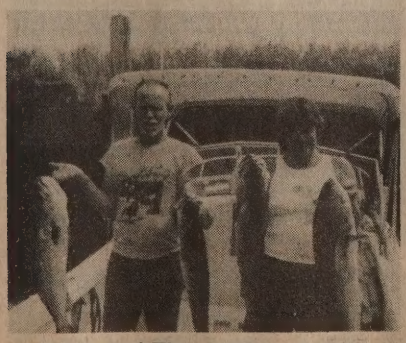

Eddie and Tiny McGinnes with a trio of big weaks and a 14 lb. blue caught aboard the Brooklyn based charter boat "Ann Marie."

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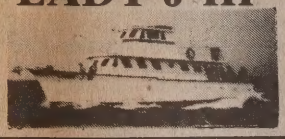

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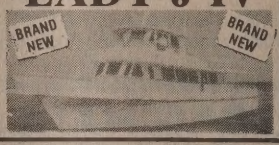

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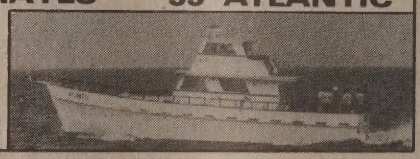

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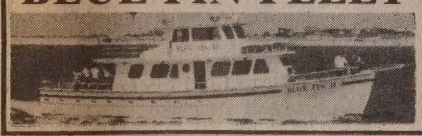

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spearing. Bill Hall was satisfied with an 11 lb. 10 oz. weakfish taken on live bunker near the Marine Parkway bridge. Fishing off the north channel bridge, Ryan Crowley hoisted a 4 lb. 11 oz. fluke on spearing. A 7 lb. 4 oz. fluke was the reward for Stephen Becker who fished live killies off the south channel bridge.

Over in Sheepshead Bay, Neil at **Stella Maris Tackle** said the name of the game is lots of fluke and blues with the fluke being taken mainly off Riis Park and the Coney Islands flats and much larger now. Blues being caught off COney Isand, Nortons Pot and Seabright.

Captain Bob of the **Flamingo III** talked of very, very good bluefishing all week long with some days producing the larger fish. They have been running 2 to 9 lbs. in general, with a few alligators thrown in. On some of the trips, a couple of weakfish were also broguht up. Action has been off the HighLand, Sea bright or offshore all on jigs. Lots of catches have been in the 60s and 70s. Saturday night's trip had very good catches working 17 for mixed fish to 13 lbs.

The **Betty W. IV** has been having wall to wall bluefishing also this week and weekend on both day and night trips.

Aboard the **Zephyr**, Capt. Butch said it was almost all keeper fluke during the week. Scotty Croll had a 9 lber. Tuesday and bigger fish have been dropped. Pool winners are daily in the 4 to 8 lb. range, with fish definitely taking a larger turn this week off the Jersey Coast on spearing, sand eels and fluke belly. The boat will be sailing every day this week except July 4th.

North Shore REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

The fishing picture has been dominated by bluefish, with very large fish reported both in the western and eastern Sound, mixed with bass. Weakfish have been reported under blues, the major run expected any day. Good steady porgy catches have been made both in the Sound and off Gardiner's. Lots of fluke around, with an extraordinary amount of shorts in all fluke haunts. A typical summer picture has emerged.

WESTERN SOUND

John, from **John's Gun and Tackle** in **New Rochelle** tried his hand at fluking over the weekend. The group included, John, Paul Duranca of

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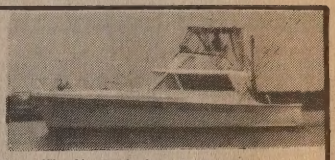

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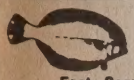

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Pelham, New York, Sett Bruno and John Molinero. With squid, spearing, sand eels as bait, the final tally on keepers, fish from sixteen to twenty inches, was sixteen fluke. Lots of shorts were noted. Best action took place anywhere from Bayville to Huntington. Bluefishing continues at a frenzied pace, with anglers trolling tubes, jigging diamonds or using mackerel or bunker bait on the bottom, with all methods catching fish. Blues were stacked up from Hempstead Harbor, through Rye and Captain's Island, with everyone into fish. Blackfish seem to have slowed down a bit.

Jimmy, at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** in **City Island** reports fantastic bluefishing from Hempstead to Orchard Beach, with big blues chasing bunker. Blues are ranging in size from five to ten pounds. Porgy fishing is holding up well, with most rental skiffs returning with two or more buckets of porgies from half to one pound with Orchard Beach a hot spot over the weekend. Flounder catches are on teh decline as are blackfish, probably because most anglers have switched to fluke. Lots of fluke have been caught at Prospect Point, Bayville and Sands Point with the average keeper in the two to three pound range. Night efforts have continued to produce bass.

The **North Star II** is finding a steady pick of porgies, blacks and flounder on daytime trips, with charters available for moonlight sails.

Captain Dom Cerbone reported very good porgy catching on the **Apache** on the weekend, with anglers who worked at it catching twenty-five to thirty porgies a person. While msot porgies are pan size, an occasional larger porgy has been caught. Blackfish are copping the pool daily. Fishing efforts have been in the Center Island area, off Oyster Bay, about an hours ride from the dock. Captain Dom was delighted to find a good pick of porgies on all drops.

The porgy action was so good on Sunday's trip on the **Young America** that Captain Ralph stayed out later than usual to take advantage of a good situation. Fishing in mid-sound, regulars such as Bill and Tom bailed fish, with six year old Richard quickly learning the ways of porgy fishing. Many felt that the blessing given to the boat by Monsignor Asip of St. Luke's Church has played a major factor in bringing fish into the area. It was also noted that the Monsignor acted as first mate on Sunday's trip.

John, at **Glen Cove Sports Shop** spoke of big blues busting out all over, from Glen Cove breakwater to Lloyds Neck. A gorilla of thirteen pounds fifteen ounces, was caught by Artie Miller on the weekend, while Ronald Oldenberg and others caught all they wanted of two to ten pound blues. Fluking remains decent from Sands Point to Mattinecock Point, with some fluke in the three to five pound range. There are not too many blackfish reports, since most anglers have switched to fluke or blues.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Bob and Jerry at **Huntington Prop** heard of bluefish blitzing the area from Friday through Sunday. Early Sunday morning, Rich Felner plucked blues weighing to eighteen pounds from Huntington Harbor. Imre Szabo, visiting from Budapest, Hungary, caught his first bluefish fishing Eaton's Neck with Tony Vanilla on the "Snake-O". The twelve pound blue took a diamond jig. Best fluking spots included Lloyd's, Sand City, Valley Grove, and Eaton's Neck, with fluke ranging to five pounds. While weakfish catches were slow, one customer reported catching a twelve pound weak working a salty dog lure off Crab Meadow Beach. Sand porgies have moved into the area between Bouy 13 and Eaton's Neck, while most anglers have forsaken blackfishing, Richie and his cousin Kent caught a half dozen blacks on their boat "Karen" fishing only a short time at Diamond Point near Bouy 4.

There are lots of blues near LILCO to the Eaton's triangle, to Centerport, to Lloyd's, stated Eileen Fleichman at **Greenlawn Sports Shop**. Fluke were very good from the Coast Guard Station to Centerport Harbor, with some Boston mackerel still trying to avoid blues at Centerport and Northport harbors. Nice size blackfish have been caught at Makamah Beach both by boat and from shore with some weighing in at five to eight pounds. Eileen is still ordering green crabs for blackfish bait. Humpback porgies have come in to deep water, near the Northport loading platform, with worms best bait.

Tom Bowman heard that the best bluefishing is taking place at sunrise and sunset at Eaton's Neck with fish of varying sizes chasing sandeels. Tin lures and jigs are working well and hopkins lures with a red gill teaser are

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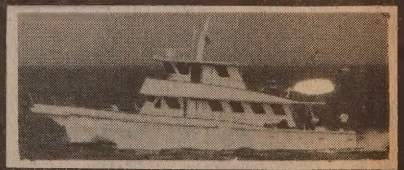

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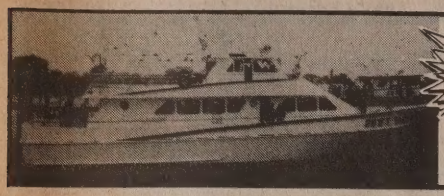

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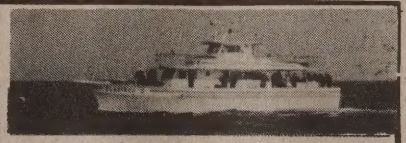

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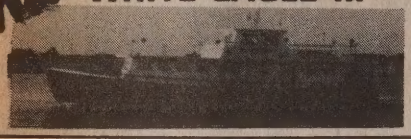

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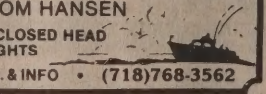

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producing double headers. Customers at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** report good fluking at Sand City, with a lot of shorts near the LILCO hot water outflow. Best baits include squid strips with smelt, sand eels or shiner. Porgies have settled in the channel in Northport Bay. Weakfish reports are practically non existent.

Captain John Alberda of the Charter boat "TJ" of **Sound Charters** in **Huntington** was into great bluefishing Thursday morning. Don Sweeney and his son, Don Junior of Queens jigged approximately one hundred bluefish in the three to nine pound range in Huntington Bay, filling their first igloo cooler in fourty minutes of non stop fishing. Call Captain Alberda for information on special open boat trips for early morning and evening blues and weakfish trips.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** says the "bluefish went crazy" Sunday morning in Huntington Harbor, Lloyds Harbor, Oyster Bay, Northport Bay and Cold Springs Harbor, with many large fish brought in for weighing. Jack Endee and his father Henry, caught blues to six and a quarter pounds in Huntington Harbor. Don Whiteman of Cleveland Ohio used a bunker to catch a thirteen pound chopper, the largest fish he ever caught, while fishing with Jim Selfridge. Larry Chancy caught a fourteen pound two ounce blue Sunday morning. Although Peggy Rauff is expecting an addition to her family momentarily, she and her husband fished the Bayville Beach Sunday morning, filling a five gallon pail with twenty blackfish. Peggy caught the largest, five pounds. Many cocktail size blues also were taken home. Despite a good number of short fluke in the area, Ed Parkinson caught a seven pound three ounce fluke on the weekend. Keepers range from two to three and a half pounds in general. Best fluke action includes Lloyds, Diamond Point, Sand City (where some very large fluke were dropped), Valley Grove and Whitewood.

Mr. Chamcho, a regular at **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson** has discovered the where abouts of a load of porgies. His catch of three hundred porgies was made on Saturday on the west side of Old Field Point, with worms (a flat) doing the trick. The porgies ranged from three quarters to two pounds in weight. Bluefish were on top just outside Port Jefferson inlet, eastward to Bouy 11, westward to Old Field Point, chasing small sand eels on Sunday morning. Since most of these blues are small (one to three pounds) small diamond jigs or popping plugs were doing the trick. Very large blues were reported in deep water about five miles northwest of Crane's Neck, with some to twelve pounds, best on trolled umbrella rigs. Dick Bronkwell found a dozen keeper fluke, under the Pink House and won the local North Shore Anglers Club derby. Some weaks are rumored, with anglers on rental skiffs

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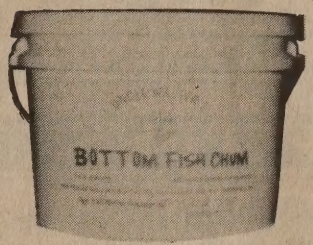

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catching an occasional weakfish on squid bait.

Captain Roy Cash reported very good bottom fishing all week on the **Port Jeff Ace** with excellent porgies, mixed with fluke, sea bass and blackfish. A weakfish took a porgy bait on Tuesday, while fluke are increasing daily. On Sunday's night bluefish trip, blues from one to six pounds were jigged at Bouy 9, with Bill Porter high hook with over a dozen. A reminder that the **Port Jeff Ace** will not be fishing on the Fourth of July, due to a fireworks charter.

The **Prowler** had been enjoying good bluefishing all week. However, on a charter trip on Saturday, a group, led by Paul Shore of Airtight Security struck gold! hundreds of bluefish were pulled aboard, most in the two and three pound range, with a few to eight pounds. However, Captain Bruce Cash found twenty five weakfish, which were under the blues, with an equal number dropped. A fantastic trip! The **Prowler** will sail as an open boat daily for blues and weaks from Port Jefferson, with evenings available for charters.

Ralph Davenport spoke of lots of small bluefish brought into **Ralph's Fishing Station** over the weekend, with lots of fish close to the beach early in the morning, deeper in the heat of the day. Although most of the blues were in the one to three pound range, a few larger fish are around as evidenced by a fourteen pounder caught on a trolled tube at Bouy 11 by a youngster on Sunday. Rental skiff customers did very well on porgies on the weekend. Fluke, with many shorts were located in the Bouy 11 area on the weekend, with five or six keepers a boat. While most fluke are barely keeper size, an occasional five pounder has been brought in.

Captain Frank reported fairly good fluke catches during the week, with an average of four or five keepers per trip. Wednesday's trip on the **My Yacht II** settled for flounder in the harbor, due to severe winds. On

Saturday, a charter party arranged by Marty Diventergo of Pennsylvania caught fifteen fluke in the morning then tried their hand at jigging a few blues at the dropoff at Bouy 11. Captain Frank discovered the mother lode! A three hour fishing frenzy put over two hundred bluefish into the fish box, most in the two to three pound range. The fish jumped on 007 jigs. Captain Frank will add weakfish, bluefish trips to his open boat schedule, sailing Tuesday and Thursday nights from six to ten pm.

Captain Fred Mildner reports lots of bluefish action on the charter boat **Hawkeye** with heavy action on jigs and plugs. Sunday, some very nice fluke were picked up east of Mt. Sinai, with the largest weighing over five pounds at **Ralph's Fishing Station**. Captain Fred has a few open dates for day or night weakfishing. Call for information.

Al Sturges, at **Captain Al's Complete Angler** heard of very good action with tackle busting bluefish in deep water off Crane's Neck on Sunday. While much of the week's fishing was held back due to ever persistent winds, Al did hear of action with small bluefish at Mt. Sinai inlet and from the beaches.

Bill, at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, heard of lots of short fluke in front of the Pink House, with an occasional six pounder caught in deeper water. Try the Belle Terre area on outgoing tide and the drop off on the west side of Bouy 11 on the incoming tide. Porgies are holding up well with a good number of one to one and a half pound fish from the Rocky Point beaches, Cedar Beach and under the Pink House. Blackfish on the Shoreham pipeline are still willing to eat hermit crabs.

NORTH FORK

The fishing picture is much the same as last week's according to Liz at Charlies **Mattituck Fishing Station**, with lots of porgies at the Firing Range and off Coopers Rock. An occasional weakfish is tempted by squid baited on a high hook while porgy fishing. The fluke picture remains the same also, with lots of action but few keepers. Small blackfish are in the same places as porgies. Plenty of bluefish are roaming about.

Howard Peterson reported a catch of two-hundred porgies made by Adrian Montaque which were caught on a skiff from **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** anchored off the Beachcomber Motel on Sunday. While the fluke run has not occurred yet at Horton's Point, the Marino brothers did locate fifteen keepers early last week, top weight being five pounds. Hermit crabs were the bait of choice for a couple of good size blackfish on Sunday, caught by Ricky Grant (ten pound blackfish) and by John Pervis (eight pounds). The pair fished on the Northville pipeline. Huge schools of

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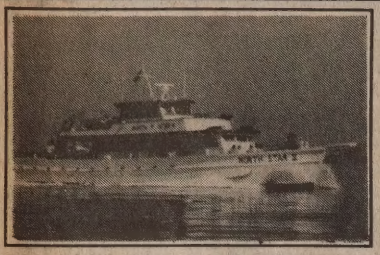

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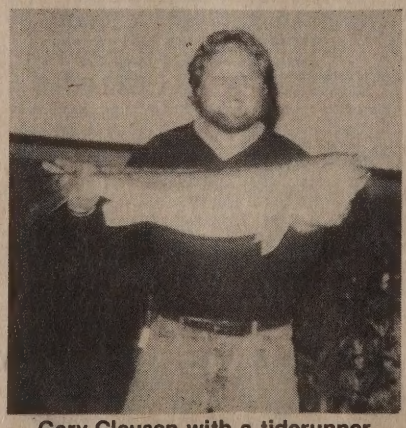

Gary Clausen with a tiderunner weak taken in West Channel on a Smokey's Lightstick Rig. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Tackle Shop in Bay Shore.

blues seem to be entrenched from Roanoake eastward, accompanied by a few weakfish. One skiff tried the dropoff straight out off the Firing range on Sunday, returning with six weaks in the seven pound range.

Ace Cottrel of **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reported that big bluefish were back in Plum Gut and the Race, with a few bass, but not much news of weakfish. Good porgy action took plac both at the east side of Gardiner's Island at Eastern Plains Point and in the sound off Greenport's 67 steps. Fluke are worth a try at the Ruins with ''fewer shorts than last week'', according to Ace. While fluke activity at Horton's Point remains quiet, some fluke were rumored caught off Truman's Beach. Rocky Point in the Sound was the scene of a nice catch of porgies made on the ''Sea Boots'' on the weekend. Captain John Thompson, fishing with a group of New York City firemen boated a seventy-two pound mako fishing out of Shinnecock Inlet on the ''Fish Tales''.

Captain Pete Izzo is concentrating on Gardiner's fluke on the **Bo Ann II** on her half day open boat trips which are scheduled Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 10 am. A charter trip on Saturday located twenty-five keeper fluke at Gardiner's Island, with many shorts, for a group of telephone company employees. Sunday found good porgy action in the Sound at Rocky Point for the Westbury Fire Department, with average size mediums, a sprinkling of jumbo porgies.

At the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport**, Captain Robert Wassuta, of the charter boat ''We Go'', told us of loads of big bluefish that moved into the Race and Pigeon Rip with average blues weighing six to fifteen pounds caught on eight ounce diamond jigs. A group of six returned with 120 blues on a trip on the weekend. Smaller fish (three to eight pounds) moved into Plum Gut, with a few bass. Best action on the bluefish appeared to be outgoing tide, according to Captain Massuta. On the fluke scene, action at Horton's Point was reported to be hit or miss, while a better ratio of keepers appeared at teh Ruins on the weekend, with more sixteen to eighteen inch fluke around. Sea bass have been caught at Constellation Rock. Action is apparently picking up in the Sound. An eight pound blackfish fell to a fiddler crab fished from shore at the ''67 Steps'' off Greenport. The **Brand X** fished off Rocky Point and Truman's for a nice porgy catch on Sunday. Blackfish are persistent, with a five pound blackfish winning the pool. Reportedly many of the porgies caught on Sunday's trip weighed two pounds.

Captain Dave Brennan reported phenomenal action on Sunday's porgy trip on the **Peconic Star**, with double and triple header porgies leaping on the hooks! Captain Brennan discovered a ''mother lode'' of porgies, all over one and a half pounds in size. ''yankee Jimmy'' and friend George

filled their coolers. Average catch on this trip was fourty to sixty porgies per angler, with most anglers filling a bucket or two "just like the good old days". The **Peconic Star** is full time porgy fishing, sailing daily from **Greenport**.

Captain Larry Cicotto reported plenty of fluke action aboard the **Prime Time III** at Gardiner's, with anglers returning with two to eight fish per person. A few fluke over five pounds have moved into the area, with the pool fish caught by Gene Kirshak on Sunday weighing six and a half pounds.

Captain Rich Jensen begins open boat bluefish trips this week, and will fish for blues on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4:00 pm to 9:30 on the **Nancy Ann**. Bluefish action picked up this past weekend at Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, and the Race, with a few bass mixed with the catch. Captain Jensen reports fluking as "picky" with an extraordinary amount of shorts around.

Surf REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Surf fishing around the Island slipped back into the same noneventful state it suffered from prior to last week's resurgence. Both bass and weaks were almost completely lacking from this week's reports with the bulk of this past week's action concerning small bluefish.

At **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk**, last Monday's first showing of weaks at Shagwong never developed into much of anything. One or two weakfish picked each night along the entire beach has been the rule for most of the week. On Saturday, a few small blues showed at North Bar. During the week occasional flurries with small blues and an occasional school bass occurred at scattered point between North Bar and Jones Reef.

Moriches Inlet continues to host some small bass while providing several very good innings with small bluefish according to Paul Graniello at **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. All of the action has been confined to the inlet rocks with no fish reported taken along the open beach this week.

According to Tom Healy of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, just some small blues at dawn and dusk on the Cedar Bar. Tin and tubes like the A17 jig have been most productive. No other action reported from the local surf.

From Scott Smythe at **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** came word of lots of 2-3 pound blues taken at Democrat Point Thursday evening by John Durante. According to Scott, a couple of school bass were mixed with the blues. On Friday, Tony Tessari of Lindenhurst reported doing a good job on blues at the Sore Thumb and Cedar Bar on tin.

Gateway Striper Club PR man Joe Augeri reported on his club's activities over the past week. Jim McKay used a Danny plug to beach a 17 pound striper at 63rd Street in the Rockaways on Tuesday. On Thursday, Joe managed a 15 pound blue on a Danny plug at South Beach in Staten Island. Aside from these two fish, fellow club members reported taking small blues at Caumsett Sunday morning. They also reported encountering small blues at Breezy Point, Moriches Inlet and Jones Inlet during the course of the week.

Up on the North Shore plenty of blues to 3 pounds along with an occasional larger chopper taken along

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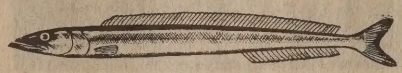

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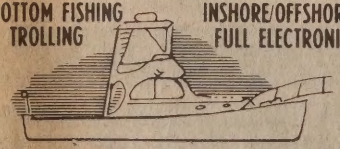
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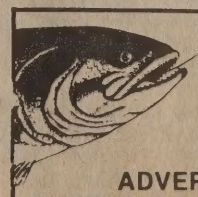
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Huntington and Northport Beaches. George Valentine at **Four Winds** in **Huntington** weighed a 13 pound chopper for Hugh Chancey. It was taken Sunday morning at Lloyds.

Good action with small blues along local beaches from Broadway to Hulse Landing according to Stan Hentschel at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**. Fish are being taken evenings and early mornings on small tins.

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Although some large fish were taken this week, pickerel, trout and bass began to show signs of a summer slowdown as temperatures rose throughout the week. Anglers working after dark or during the early morning and late evening hours are having the most success. Working deeper water seems to help also.

Both **Cast-A-Way Bait and Tackle** in **Franklin Square** and **Beckmann's Bait and Tackle** in **Lynbrook** reported slow going this week on the freshwater scene. The only action with bass in this area has been at the outflow of Hempstead Lake and this has been picky fishing early and late in the day. Charlie Beckmann feels that the fish are now falling into a summer routine and anglers will need to work deeper pockets of water to score with any consistency.

Mike Nicolletti of **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in **Wantagh**, also noticed a drop in bass activity this past week but noted that a change in baits might tempt those fish into biting. Anglers who switched over to nightcrawler baits took a decent pick of fish all week long at the Twin Lakes and the south end of Mill Pond. A few very small pickerel were also taken here on spinners. Biggest bass brought into the shop this week was a 6.5 pounder taken from the Peconic River by Jeff Bollbach. The fish, along with several others to three pounds, fell for an unspecified bait.

From **Edelman's Sportsman's Center** in **Farmingdale**, fred laager reports that Brian Clarke used a flyrod and black bass bugs to raise four smallmouth bass in Lower Yaphank Lake on Friday night. Todd Penski connected with six pickerel to twenty inches and ten bass to 2.5 pounds west of the expressway in the Peconic River. Silver and blue walking sticks did the damage here. Nick Calabresi and friend Paul Talbot fish late in the evening and used jitterbugs to score with five bass to three pounds on a small Mid-Island lake.

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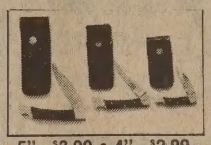
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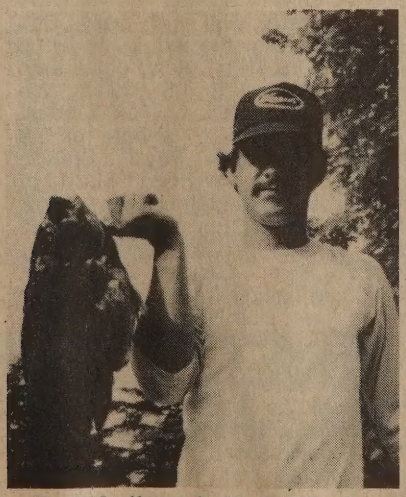

Scott Stellman hefts a 10½ lb. blackfish he caught at the Northville Pipeline on a hermit crab. The big "tog" was taken in early June. Subscriber photo.

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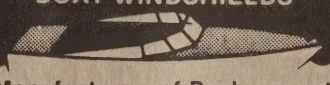
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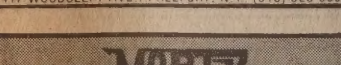
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Kruse reports slow going on Lake Ronkonkoma. Bass are feeding mostly after dark with surface lures or nightcrawlers the best bet. Brother and sister Venessa and Daryl Walsh checked in a nice pair of three pound plus bass one evening. White perch action is super on nightcrawler baits.

I got a few innings in with the Connetquot River trout early in the week and found them especially receptive to dry flys. In fact, working small grey patterns produced fifteen fish to two pounds in about one and a half hours fishing. Hendrickson's also were productive. Across the Island at Caleb Smith State Park, however, park manager Mike Venuti lamented the lack of trout action noting that the water level was real low and we could stand a good, soaking rain. Anglers are taking a few average sized fish but they are really working for each strike.

Only one freshwater fish was weighed in at **J&J Sports Center** in **Oakdale** this week. Kevin Gorman placed a 1.10 pound rainbow on the scale. Kevin took his fish from Bubbles Falls on Saturday.

A busy week for the crew at **J&J Bait and Tackle** in **Patchogue** according to Paul Graniello. Quite a few large bass and some real nice trout were checked in. Bassmaster Danny McGarry of Huntington dropped in with the biggest bass we've heard of so far this season, a fat 7.5 pounder. The fish fell for a spinnerbait in Patchogue's Lace Mill Pond and was released alive after weighing. Fellow club member Ray Pinto also stopped by the shop to check in a 5.3 pound bigmouth taken from Lake Ronkonkoma. Turning to trout, a fellow by the name of Tony weighed in a real pretty 5.5 pound rainbow taken from Connetquot River State Park on a black leach pattern early last week. On Thursday, Milo Misut placed a 3.11 pound rainbow on the scales. His fish also came from the park.

Out east at the **Fisherman's Deli**, George Devlin reports his regulars scoring pretty well with bass. Bob Bliss stopped by the shop early in the week and spoke of taking eight bass and six pickerel to 3.5 pounds. Joe Carillo of Commack worked a crank bait to connect with a bass of 5.6 pounds in Forge Pond. Claude Woodly and Wilfred Budd of Riverhead fished nightcrawlers under the expressway tunnel to nail nine bass to 3.25 pounds in the upper Peconic River. George added that catfishing has been very good of late in the river. Bob Bliss still leads the shop bass contest with a 4.13 pound bass. The contest ends next week.

Trout fishing upstate at **Hunter Mountain** has been on the slow side according to Ken Josephson of **Crazy Chief Ski and Sport**. The water is very low and clear right now which gives the fish a big advantage in spotting anglers before they make their presentations. Ken felt a good rain is all that is needed to get the fishing back on track.

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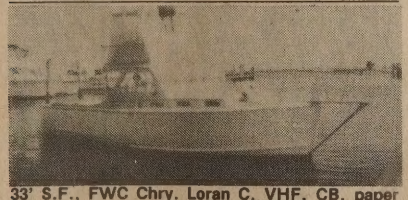

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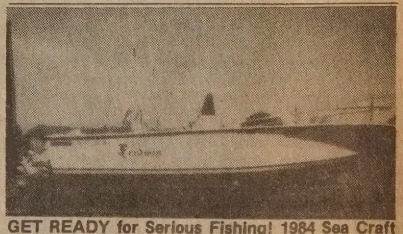

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AQUASPORT 24' 6" Walkaround cuddy 1981. Brand new 1986 Mercruiser. Great family fishing machine. Must sell. Ask: $15,500. 928-4317/2220.

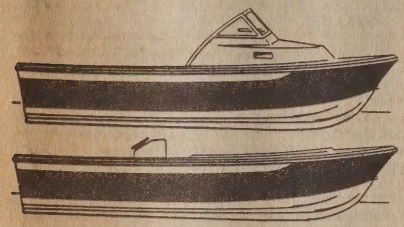
BEST BUY: Larsen 17' 1972 plus Evinrude 65 hp & Shoreline trailer. Excl. cond. $2500. 757-3726; 757-2719.

1985 24' GRADY WHITE, 235 hp Evinrude, H/T. Full canvas, hydraulic steering, full elect., 2-yr warranty on engine & much more. Mint cond. SUFFOLK MARINE, 516-669-0907.

1984 17' PROLINE center console. Rigged for fishing. 70 hp Yamaha, Shoreline galv. trailer. CG Pkg. $7500. After 6PM: 516-589-6599.

1983 40 hp Mariner, manual start, short shaft. Low hrs. Dealer maintained & ready for this season. Two 6-gal. tanks. Ask: $1200. Eves: 516-698-2326.

NISSAN Outboards: 3.5-70 hp. Spring Specials! McKee Craft boats. Nova Inflatables. Summer dockage; winter storage. KREMER'S BOAT-YARD, 2425 Jackson Av., Seaford. 516-221-8877.



21' OFF SOUNDINGS Deep Vee. Built for those who make a living from the sea. Commercial & sports models. Base boat-$5700. Base boat, Volvo 151 I/O-$10,000. Base boat cuddy-$9500. St. James, NY. 516-862-6969.

1981 32'x10½' DOWN EAST Haul 1" mahogany plank 5/4"x2" 8" OC ribbing, 6V53N. Less than 700 hrs. VHF, 2 fish finders, North Star 800, Loran Interphase to Robertson auto pilot, 2000 lb. insulated fish box. Excl. 6-man charter boat, etc. Boat A-1 cond. $32,000. 914-738-1249.

1979 MAKO 25', Evinrude 235 hp Center console, 122 gal. fuel, cuddy canvas, drop curtain. Bimini top, SS rails, wheel, live baitwell. Lowrance chart recorder, VHF, CB, stereo. Dual batt., power anchor, outriggers, SS prop. All new gauges. Mint cond. $17,500. Days: 516-887-9000, ask for Sandy. Eves: 516-799-0859.

LIKE NEW

33' CONCORDE Custom refinished & updated in '83. Only thing original is her hull. Completely rigged for the serious fisherman or cruising. Work & equip too numerous to list. Call for details. $58,000. Days: 516-744-1707. Eves: 516-587-4029.

LIKE NEW—Ready to go. Grady White 20' Marlin, cuddy w/head, 185 hp OMC. New VHF & DF, Bimini top, swim platform. Fully equip. $9500. 516-789-0995.

SHAMROCK KEEL DRIVE I/Bs 17', 20' & 26'. Rampage Sportfisherman 24'-28'-31' I/B. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.

1976 26' PACEMAKER Wahoo. Twin 155 Chrysler I/B, tuna tower, Loran, X-15 recorder, VHF, stereo, outriggers, head. 200 gal. fuel. $15,900. SUFFOLK MARINE, 516-669-0907.

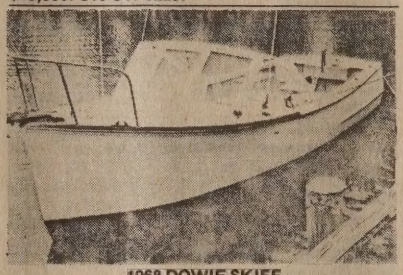
1983 JC 31', 375 hp V6-71TI, 22 mph cruise, 250 gal. fuel tank. Fully equip. 75 mile run = 58 gal. fuel. Excl. cond. $92,000. 203-838-0503.

18' TAYLORCRAFT, '83 115 hp Mercury 85 galv. trailer, CB radio, compass. Dual batt. & gas tanks, Ss Prop. Extras. Ready to go. $3750. 242-3821.

SEACRAFT '77 20', '83 200 hp Mercury, T-Top. Large center console w/head. Outriggers, Ross recorder. '82 Shoreline trailer. Mint fishing Pkg. $11,500. 516-781-1377, 249-7200.

WHY BUY NEW? Must Sell—Fisherman's dream. 1986 Grady White Seafarer 226 H.T. 175 Johnson, full electronics & Loran. Loaded. Many more options. Used only twice! Will sacrifice $24,500 or Best Offer. For details: Days: 516-427-1169. Eves & Wknds: 516-549-9038.

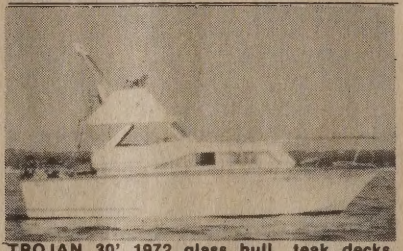
CONCORD 1970 27' Fiberglass Sea Skiff, 1983 225 FWC Merc, 10' Beam. Low hrs. Many extras. $18,500. 516-541-6229.



1968 DOWIE SKIFF

1986 New 350 engine, new manifold, new FWC. $8500. 516-499-8649. Ask for Charlie.

V20 WELLCRAFT cuddy, 1985 115 Evin., VHF, recorder, 1984 Cox EZ Loader w/power winch. $8700. 516-369-2790.



TROJAN 30' 1972 glass hull, teak decks. Flybridge, twin 225 Mercs FWC. Repowered 1982. Swim platform, ice box, stand-up head. Loran C, vhf, C, Lowrance computer fish finder, 2 compass, 35 gal. freshwater. Bimini top. Trim tabs. Dock-side power, batt. charger. Mint cond. $22,000. 516-423-8989/360-3680.

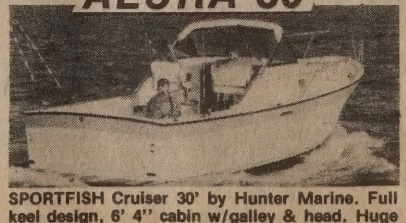
EVINRUDE 1982 175 hp, rebuilt, 90 day guarantee. 25" shaft. $3500. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD, 516-567-3417.

1980 HYDRASPORT 24' center console, 235 hp Evinrude. T-tops, canvas, 3 radios, Loran, chart recorder, riggers. Tons more equip. In water. Ask: $15,000. 516-764-6360.

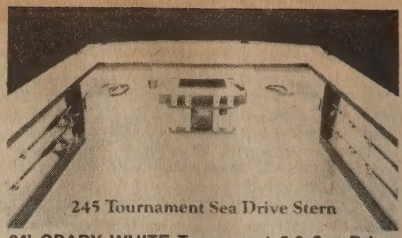
1981 28' TOPAZ, twin Volvo diesels, tuna tower, radar, chair, Loran, digital DF, paper recorder, digital speed, digital sea temp, Glendenning auto sync, Lee Sr. outriggers. Good cond. $55,000. SUFFOLK MARINE, 516-669-0907.

16' DORY 6½' beam, 25 hp Evinrude. Highlander tilt trailer w/bearing buddies. Ask: $1950. 516-226-7516.

ALURA 30'



SPORTFISH Cruiser 30' by Hunter Marine. Full keel design, 6' 4" cabin w/galley & head. Huge cockpit. Introductory special $37,200 w/270 hp. FOB. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.



245 Tournament Sea Drive Stern

24' GRADY WHITE Tournament 2.6 Sea Drive. Loaded. 516-764-1257.

1984 21' STEIGER Cuddy H/T, w/canvas encl. '84 115 hp Yamaha, '84 Cox trailer, w/extras. $13,900. VILLAGE MARINE, 516-298-5800.

1983 21' STARCRAFT center console, 1984 75 hp TNT Evinfude & '85 galv. trailer. $7895. Village Marine, 516-298-5800.

1985 Demo 26' Seaway w/gill bracket, 200 hp Mariner. Loaded with extras. $27,900. Village Marine, 516-298-5800.

BOSTON WHALER Sport 15', 1982 leftover, bought new in 1983. Stainless steel bow rail & mooring cover options. 1983 EZ Loader trailer, 55 hp Evinrude. Extras. Very clean. Ask: $5300. After 6PM: 516-678-3753.

1970 REINELL Fiberglass, 21'. Trailer, Loran, VHF, OMC 155 hp. Hard top. Best offer. 795-5747. Eve: 516-589-3340.

1983 22' BOSTON WHALER Revenge cuddy cabin forward steering 1983 200 hp Johnson. Excl. 1985 30 hp Johnson long shaft kicker—new. Custom marine concepts, fighting chair w/footrest. Bimini top w/full encl. Porta-Potti, Penn downriggers, Lee outriggers, Lowrance X-1550 chart recorder, micrologic 5500 Loran, Si-Tex 878 VHF, Compass. Dual axle Loadrite roller trailer w/brakes & winch. Many extras. Ideal for small boat big game fishing. Ready to fish. Replacement value $34,000. Ask: $22,500 Firm. Must be seen. 203-877-7272.

42' NOVI 1865 GM 671. Many extras. In water; will demo. Best offer. 516-283-2307.

ANSWER 24' 1980 center console, 155 hp 1984 Johnson Commercial, rocket launcher, VHF, depthfinder & more. $14,900. PORT OF EGYPT, Southold, 516-765-2445.

1980 MAINE Custom built 25' Sportsfisherman, 200 hp Turbo Diesel FWC. Tower, dual controls, cuddy, VHF, Loran. Fully equip. Economical & seaworthy. Mint cond. Many extras. In water; ready to go. 516-728-1823. 212-792-8787.

1978 115 hp Evinrude. Rebuilt 1985. Low hrs. PT&T. Excl. cond. Ask: $2500. 516-281-5498.

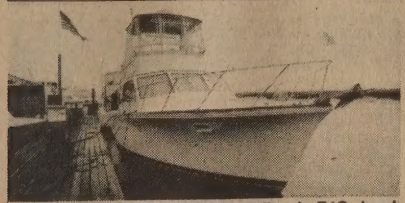
1974 WELLCRAFT 24' Airslot Fisherman, walk-around cuddy, 225 hp OMC I/O repowered 1983. Low hrs. New canvas, dual batt., CB radio, depth recorder, Porta-Potti, outriggers. Slip paid for 1 season. Ask: $7500. Eves & Wknds: 516-667-2464.

1979 PENN YAN 26' Sportfish, flybridge, dual station, 10' beam. Bimini, anchor windlass. New teak swim platform. Excl. fishing/family. Mint. $23,000. Must sell. 203-397-3656.

19' THOROBRED 85 hp Johnson engine. Shoreline trailer. Very good cond. Extras. Must sell. $1500. 516-938-6143.

MINT. 1977 Robalo 23', 120 gal. fuel. Needs steering & controls, etc. $4500 or Best Offer. 516-692-4352.

CHRIS CRAFT Lancer Sportsman 25' 350/300 hp C.C., FWC. Volvo 280 I/O. Full electronics, new canvas, Perko riggers, holders, spreaders. Custom helm/tackle locker. Many, many extras. Huge cockpit. Fast, canyon range. Rare only 200 built. Must see. Ask: $15,500. Eves: 516-732-1215.



38' EGG HARBOR S/F 1973 w/diesels F/G, hard top w/every option. Low hrs. Excl. cond. Best Offer. Wkdys: 212-868-1440.

BOSTON WHALER Revenge 1982, 175 Evinrude, VHF, Loran, Lowrance X-15. Auto windlass. Fully loaded. Ask: $19,500. 718-494-1597.

34' SILVERTON. Mint. Fully loaded. Repowered '84. Must be seen by serious fishermen. $30s. 516-878-1111.

MANATEE

ALL MODELS IN STOCK! 18' cuddy cabin, 75 hp Merc., 30 gal. fuel tank. Nautelex interior, navy top. Freight, prep. & delivery incl. $10,300. O.S.M./GARY'S MARINE, Bayberry St., Merrick, 516-223-0033.

15' 1984 BOSTON WHALER Super Sport, 60 hp Suzuki, tilt trailer. Fish or ski. Many extras. Excl. $8000. 924-9175.

23' FORMULA, 69, 225 hp OMC. New alum. gas tanks, electronics, extras. $4800. 516-668-3046 Montauk.

BOATING EQUIP.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock on Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

WANTED: Fighting chair w/foot rest. Fishing equip. also. 516-728-6627.

RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av., Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

WANTED: Good windlass for 32' Cruiser. Used OK. Must be in excl. working order. 516-226-7516. John.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., Inc., 1121-16 Lincoln Av, Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

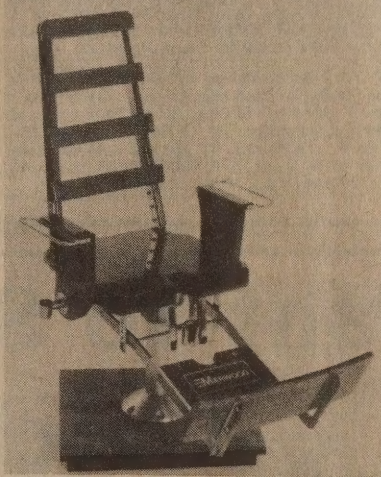
BOAT TRAILERS: EZ loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

CUSTOM MARINE WOODWORK. No job too small: tackle lockers, instrument enclosures, consoles, bow pulpits, etc. Interior & exterior repairs & restorations. CUSTOM MARINE CARPENTRY, 516-623-1639.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem Axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 718-426-7039.

ELLIOT 15-man life raft. USCG inspected & approved. In canister. $1800. 718-448-2474.

20% Off List Price on all Evinrude, Johnson & OMC propellers. BURCK, 526 City Island Av, Bronx, NY 10464. 212-885-1559.



FIGHTING CHAIRS: be prepared for the hot offshore action. High quality fighting chairs for all size vessels. Prices start from $950. 201-534-2751 or 201-920-0104.

TRAILER HITCHES. All classes: expert installation. CB radios, 4X4 accesories. Electrical repairs; propane. ADR RECREATION & COMMUNICATIONS, 1400 Spur Dr. So., Islip, NY 11751; 516-581-6411.

PROPS
2 pair. Michigan 3-blade 22x26, 1-3/8 bore. Excl. $300 pair. Freeport. 718-592-0868. Jay.

FISHING TACKLE

DIAMOND JIGS, LURES, HOOKS
and other fine tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings park, NY 11754.

HATE! HATE! HATE! Our competitors just hate us. EDELMAN'S. See page 2 & find out why.

CATCH MORE FISH—with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ 07032.

DEADLY FLOUNDER RIGS
Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sprout hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75, incl. p/h. BILL SMITH, 158 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

PENN Int. 80 w/matching Magnuflex rod. Excl. cond. $470. 516-673-6990.

CUSTOM Fishing rods. Made to your specs. No production line stuff. One-man operation. KUSTOM KRAFT, Eves: 421-1337.

DIAMOND JIG RIOT
Close out on Diamond jigs, $1 ea. Stock up while supply lasts. We also have the famous Anchovy Jig. Sale held at Hair Palace Store, Sundays only 10:30-2:00. 111-15 Liberty Ave., Richmond Hill, Queens.

MISCELLANEOUS

FELLOW FISHERMAN: One-Man Band, band or complete mobile D.J. for parties. John Anthony, 516-481-8244.

BOAT CLEANING: Washing, waxing, interior & exterior cleaning. All types of cleaning service. Weekly, monthly, seasonal rates. Special spring open-up service. Call for free estimates. LIKE NEW BOAT CLEANING, Richie, 516-826-3699.

OUTBOARD & STERNDRIVE REPAIR
Quality repairs, tune-ups, winterizations. Johnson, Evinrude, Mercury outboards. OMC, Mercruiser sterndrives. Electronics installed. Service calls. 516-334-3453.

MACHINE SHOP SERVICE: Outboard Cyls. bored & honed or resleeved back to Std. Manifolds boiled; inboards reblocked; valve work. WEST AMITY AUTO PARTS, 5685 Merrick Rd., Massapequa, NY. 516-795-4612.

WANTED: Fishermen to share expenses. Boat at Montauk. Cod, flounder, weaks, porgies. Eves: 516-671-7690.

MATE WANTED for Freeport Open Boat. Must be excellent with people. 516-766-5716.

FIBERGLASS REPAIR: on location services for cosmetic, minor structural damages. Western Suffolk; Eastern Nassau; South Shore. OSMIC, 516-661-4866.

CATCH MORE FISH: Methods on baiting & rigging. Successful techniques revealed. Send $2.95 for valuable handbook. BRITE COMMUNICATIONS, Dept. CS, Box 62, Bayside, NY 11361.

INSURANCE LOW RATES, top coverage, immediate binding. Free gift w/purchase. Hauppauge, Hicksville, W. Islip. 435-1666.

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Personalized Surf Fishing Instruction with LIF Editor & Surf Fishing columnist, Fred Golofaro. North & South Shores; Montauk. One or two anglers—day & night trips. All tackle supplied. 516-581-0077.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. 516-795-4498.

NORTH SHORE TRAP CO., St. James, NY. 516-584-6870. Vinyl coated lobster, crab, eel traps and all lobstering equip.

WANTED: Marine Mechanic, local. 516-728-4220.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
Charter Boat & business for Sale. Long Island's finest port. Excellent clientele. 516-567-1783.

Capt. Pete Mikoleski—Specializing in Small, Personalized fluke, flounder, blackfish, bluefish, striped bass & shark charters. Days: 212-306-3729. Nights: 718-478-4133.

BARE BOAT CHARTER: Cruise Peconic Bay & the North Fork aboard a 34' Cruiser. Wkdys: 734-7581.

HOUSE PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

MAKO—fine Pewter Pins. Marlin, dolphin, tuna, bluefish, weakfish, striper, large & small-mouth bass. Perfect for hat or lapel wear. Satisfaction guaranteed or full refund. Send $5.95 to: DECOY SHED, Suite 106, Plaza Bldg., Hwy 36, Hazlet, NJ 07730. Dealer inquiries invited.

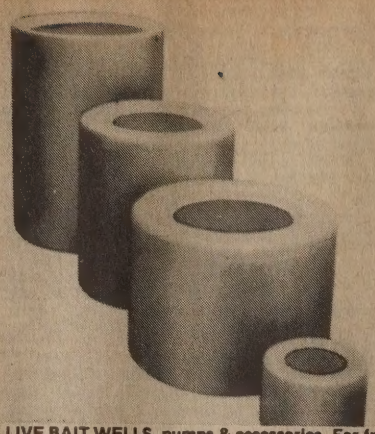
AVAILABLE AT LAST! Beautiful full color print of artist Gary Patterson's famous painting "Half Day Boat." You won't believe the detail & crazy activities going on aboard. If you've ever fished on party boats you'll really love this print. 18"x24". Looks fantastic framed. Only $9.95 + $1 p/h to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

MATE WANTED: Full time, M/F. Will train person w/outgoing personality. Open Boat "Laura Lee." 516-669-3937.

FOR SALE: 8' Fiberglass dingy-$125; electric trailer winch, 10,000 lb. max. boat weight-$125. Trix skis, never used-$50. 16' boat trailer-$50. All negotiable. 242-7804.

FISHING FOR TROUT—112 pp. w/tips on spinning, fly casting, trolling & drift fishing for trout. Info on steelheads, lakers, sea run trout, browns, brookies & rainbow; bait rigs, lures, fly hatches. By Andy Gennaro. $4.95 + $.75 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick Town, NJ 08723.

STRIPED BASS FEVER
Captain John Acompora. Fully licensed. All types of bottom fishing. Light tackle; bass specialist. Lower Westchester. Reasonable. 914-592-9126.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

LICENSE PLATE FRAME says it for you—"I'd Rather Be Fishing." Non-rusting, hi-impact, black polystyrene w/raised white letters. 1-$4.95; 2-$8.95 + $1 p/h. Send ck. or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Satisfaction guaranteed.

FISHING FOR FLUKE by Don Kamienski. Packed w/Ino on drifting, trolling & locating fluke. Baits, rigs, "dropback," casting lures; bay, river, ocean methods. 112-pps. Many diagrams. $4.95 + $.75 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick Town, NJ 08722.

DO YOU like codfishing in New England? Then The Fisherman has a book for you. "Codfishing in New England" w/16 chap., covers both inshore & offshore, from Block Isl. to Kennebunkport, Ma. Price $4 + $.65 post. CT Res add $.25 tax. Send check or M.O. to: THE FISHERMAN, P.O. Box 211, 2 Denison Av, Mystic, CT 06355.

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1975 INTERNATIONAL Scout, roof rack, radials, cooler rack. $1700. 516-661-8584.

1976 WAGONEER, roof rack, cooler rack. Trailer hitch, compressor. Very good cond. $2500. 516-226-6909.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?
LET OUR CLASSIFIEDS DO IT FOR YOU!

REAL ESTATE

BAIT & TACKLE Business & adjoining beautiful home decorated with exquisite detail. Real estate & business may be sold separately. Possible owner financing. Great So. Shore LI location. CENTURY 21 Fitzgerald, 516-781-7500. Ask for Peggy Powell.

RENT Florida Keys Condo, Duck Key: 2BR, 2Bth. Fully equip. Week or month. Bus.: 516-264-2202. Home: 516-422-3492.

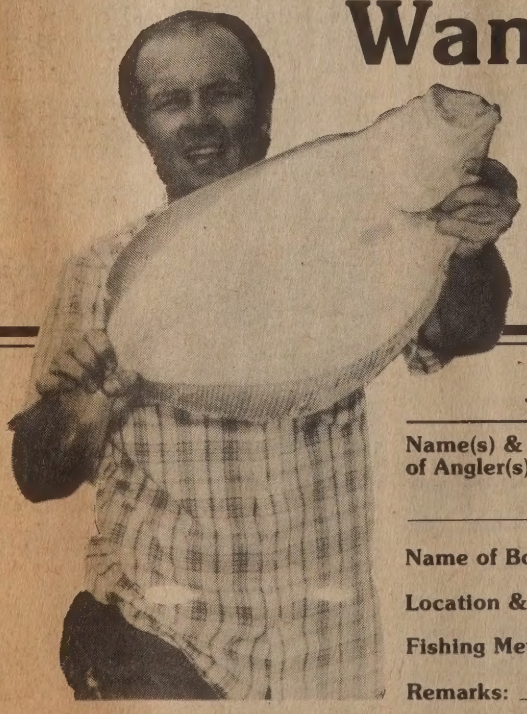
NORTH WOODMERE PARK: 60x100 waterfront lot, entrance to Jamaica Bay. Ideal for gardener. Boat storage; home. Rent or sale. Make an offer. 718-934-3023.

MONTAUK PERFECT Boatman's Investment. Low down buys lakeside Apt. & 31' slip in heart of fishing village. Mint cond. Pool; on-site management. Super financing. Must see. Call now! 516-668-2211/3208.

MONTAUK WATERFRONT. Sell 500'/12 bldgs. Can divide. Rent 2/6 room cottages. Picturesque. 516-668-2273.

WATERFRONT—N. Lawrence: Meadowmere Park. Bayfront—panoramic view of Jamaica Bay. Ultra modern wide line Ranch reduced thousands for quick sale! $219,000. Also 2 family w/190' of waterfront-$209,000. Ask for Frank. MERRILL LYNCH REALTY, 516-872-8890.

Want To See Your Catch In The Fisherman?



Use the form below.
Just fill it out and send it along with the picture.

Name(s) & Address of Angler(s): _____

_____

Name of Boat (if applicable): _____

Location & Date: _____

Fishing Method: _____

Remarks: _____

SEND TO:

THE FISHERMAN • P.O. BOX 1994., SAG HARBOR N.Y. 11963

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	5:50	6:20	6:50	7:15	6:35	7:00	7:50	8:00	10:20	10:30	9:35	9:50	5:45	6:10	7/3
FRI.	6:40	7:00	7:35	7:55	7:25	7:45	8:30	8:35	11:00	11:10	10:20	10:30	6:30	6:50	7/4
SAT.	7:25	7:40	8:20	8:35	8:10	8:20	9:10	9:10	11:40	11:45	11:00	11:10	7:15	7:35	7/5
SUN.	8:10	8:20	8:55	9:15	8:50	9:00	9:50	9:50	—	12:05	11:40	11:50	8:00	8:15	7/6
MON.	8:50	8:55	9:35	9:50	9:35	9:35	10:25	10:25	12:20	12:30	—	12:15	8:40	9:00	7/7
TUES.	9:30	9:30	10:15	10:30	10:15	10:15	11:05	11:05	12:45	1:00	12:30	12:50	9:25	9:40	7/8
WED.	10:10	10:10	10:55	11:10	10:55	10:50	11:45	11:45	1:05	1:20	1:05	1:35	10:05	10:20	7/9
THURS.	10:50	10:50	11:30	11:50	11:40	11:30	—	12:30	1:30	2:00	1:40	2:10	10:50	11:00	7/10

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 7/3	5:29	8:39
FRI. 7/4	5:30	8:39
SAT. 7/5	5:30	8:39
SUN. 7/6	5:31	8:38
MON. 7/7	5:32	8:38
TUE. 7/8	5:32	8:37
WED. 7/9	5:33	8:37

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 7/3	2:30AM	5:50PM
FRI. 7/4	3:00AM	6:50PM
SAT. 7/5	3:40AM	7:50PM
SUN. 7/6	4:30AM	8:40PM
MON. 7/7	5:25AM	9:20PM
TUE. 7/8	6:25AM	10:00PM
WED. 7/9	7:30AM	10:30PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
7/7	7/14	7/21	7/28

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	2:35	8:45	2:55	9:10
Fri.	3:25	9:30	3:40	9:55
Sat.	4:10	10:15	4:25	10:40
Sun.	4:55	11:00	5:10	11:25
Mon.	5:40	11:55	6:05	—
Tues.	6:35	12:20	7:00	12:50
Wed.	7:25	1:15	8:00	1:45
Thurs.	8:20	2:10	8:50	2:35

NOW HERE THIS!

4TH OF JULY SALE

EXTENDED STORE HOURS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
Wed., July 2nd — 9 - 8 • Thurs., July 3rd — 9 - 8 • Fri., July 4th — 9 - 1
Sat., July 5th — 9 - 6 • Sun., July 6th — 9 - 4

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TYPE III PFD YACHT VESTS

MODEL	LIST	SALE
Child - Small	$17.95	$11.95
Medium	$19.95	$13.95
Adult	$29.00	$19.95

MIRAX 6 GALLON GAS TANK 50% OFF

List $28.00
Sale $13.95
SAVE ON ALL GAS TANKS

LubriMatic® 50:1 OIL BIA APPROVED

List $22.44/Case
Sale $9.26 Case
1 Case - 12 Pts.
MERCURY AND EVINRUDE OIL NOW IN STOCK

50% OFF YOKE TYPE II LIFE JACKETS

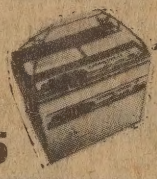
List $9.50
Sale $4.75 Ea.

SALE ON Q-Beam® SPOTLIGHT

Taylor FENDERS ALL 45% OFF

	LIST	SALE
4½ x 16	$8.55	$4.75
5½ x 20	$11.95	$6.65
6½ x 23	$18.95	$10.35
8½ x 27	$32.55	$17.85

85 AMP BATTERY



List $69.95
Sale $39.95

SUPER HOOKER ANCHORS 48% OFF

8 lb. List $26.92
Sale $14.15
13 lb. List $43.55
Sale $22.90

TELESCOPE ALUMINUM DECK CHAIRS

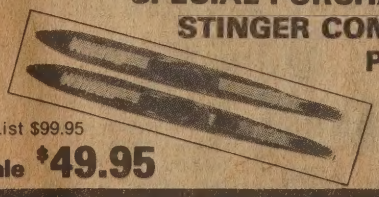
Blue and Tan
List $53.00
Sale $29.95

O'BRIEN SKIS

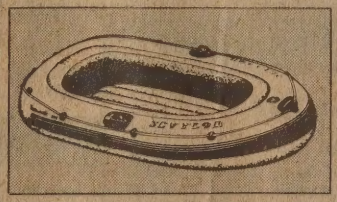
First for Good Reason

	LIST	SALE
Celebrity Combo Skis	$165.00	$129.95
Performer Combo Skis	$225.00	$169.95
World Team Comp Slalom	$225.00	$169.95
TRC Slalom	$395.00	$289.95

SPECIAL PURCHASE STINGER COMBO PAIR



List $99.95
Sale $49.95



Sevylor

2 MAN	List $41.90	Sale $29.66
3 MAN	List $63.95	Sale $44.95

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EXTRA 10% DISCOUNT FOR ALL NEW BOAT OWNERS WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE*
* Boat must have been purchased in 1986 and bill of sale must be presented. Discount does not apply to sale items and electronics.

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